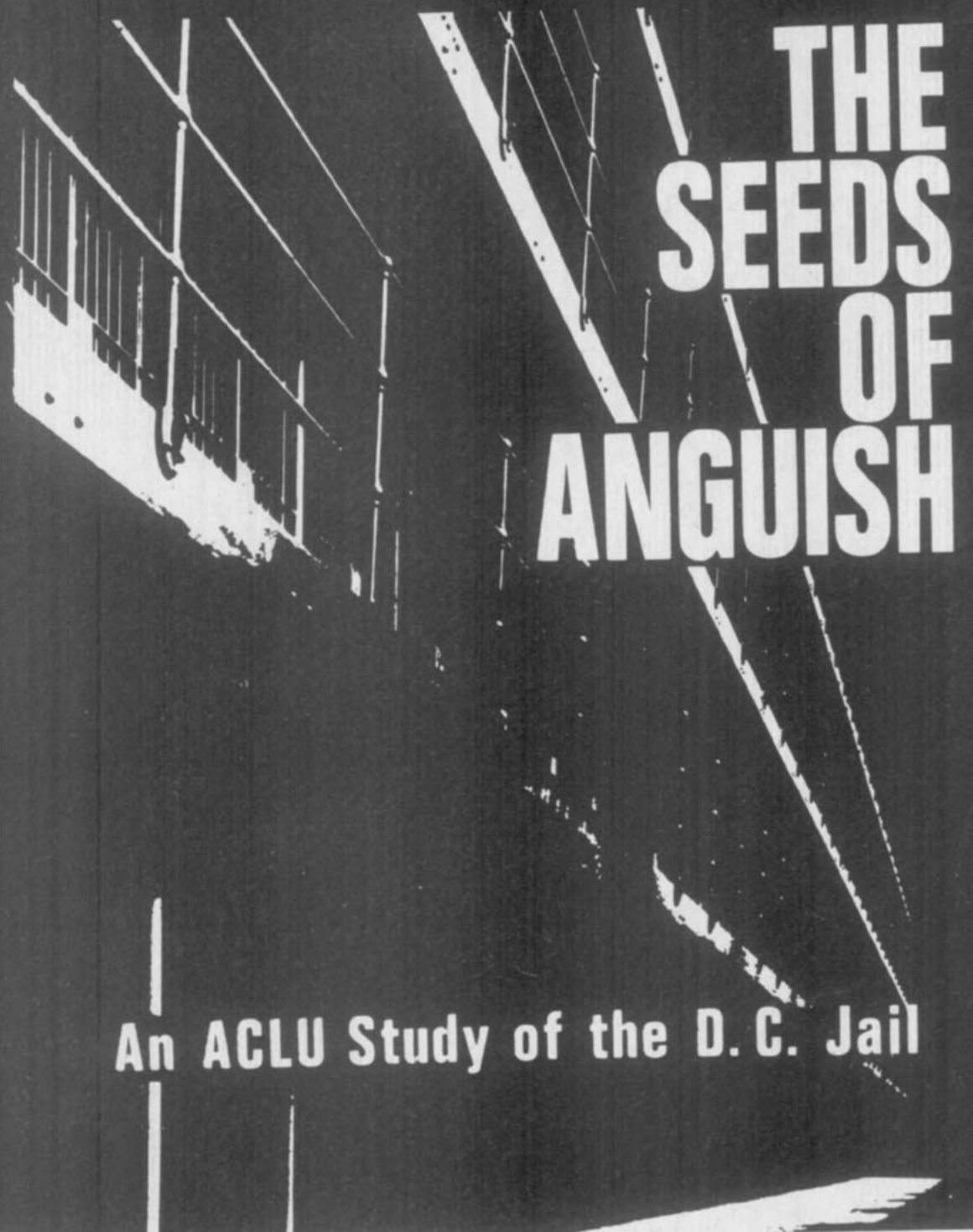


d.c. gazette



THE SEEDS OF ANGUISH

An ACLU Study of the D.C. Jail



THE following is excerpted from a study of the DC Jail made by the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. The full report is available from the ACLU at 1424 16th NW, DC 20036.

The District of Columbia Jail is a filthy example of man's inhumanity to man. It is a case study in cruel and unusual punishment, in the denial of due process, in the failure of justice.

The Jail is a century old and crumbling. It is overcrowded. It offers inferior medical attention to its inmates, when it offers any at all. It chains sick men to beds. It allows—forces men to live in crowded cells with rodents and roaches, vomit and excreta. It is the scene of arbitrary and capricious punishment and discipline. While there is little evident racial discrimination (the Jail "serves" the male population of the District of Columbia and is, therefore, virtually an all-black institution) there are some categories of prisoners who receive better treatment than others.

The eating and living conditions would not be tolerated anywhere else. The staff seems, at best, indifferent to the horror over which it presides: This, they say, is the job society wants them to do. The facilities and amounts of time available for recreation and exercise are limited, sometimes by a guard's whim. Except for a few privileged prisoners on various details, there is no means by which an inmate may combat idleness—certainly nothing that could be called education, counselling or self-help.

This report was initiated by the prisoners themselves. In April, 1969, about one hundred inmates sent a petition to the Reverend Channing Phillips, Washington civic and civil rights leader, in which they complained of being held in "deadlock" (a disciplinary condition which will be explained later) for more than half a year following a "disorder" which occurred in September, 1968. Reverend Phillips consulted with the American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital Area which in February 1970 enlisted the volunteer services of members of the D. C. Bar, members of the Georgetown Legal Intern Program and students from area law schools to meet with prisoners and former prisoners and to obtain their answers to a series of questions about the jail.

In all, ninety current and former prisoners took part in the survey, which continued through the summer of 1971. They were asked more than 100 questions each. In addition to the questionnaires, this report draws on several tours of the Jail and interviews with Jail and Corrections Department officials:

- o In October, 1970, a group of volunteer attorneys (not participating in this study) was taken on a tour of the Jail, and their report was made available to the ACLU.

- o In March, 1971, a tour was taken by the attorney in charge of the ACLU project and a group of law-student volunteers. This group interviewed Charles M. Rodgers, who was Superintendent of the Jail until the late summer of 1971.

- o In November, 1971, an ACLU investigator inter-

viewed Jail and Corrections Department officials and toured the Jail.

Following their March tour, the lawyers prepared a report, "Lawyers' Interim Report on the D. C. Jail (unpublished, March 29, 1971) hereafter cited as "Interim Report," which summarized their findings up to that date:

The investigators were appalled at what they discovered. The physical conditions were a nightmare. The jail is one hundred years old—one of the oldest in the country. It is filthy—every corner is crawling with rats and roaches. It is one of the five most overcrowded institutions in the United States, having been built for 550 inmates and now housing 1,100.

Clearly, the first need is for a new institution, a project which has been on the drawing boards for more than five years with not the first concrete move having yet been made. Obviously, the answer is a legislative one . . .

. . . having given due weight to the twin deficiencies of age and overcrowding—deficiencies which prison officials tend to blame for every criticism of the D. C. Jail—the investigators discovered many procedures which subject inmates to unreasonable and unjust treatment apart from these conditions.

Lack of exercise; depriving inmates of the right to shave and bathe; lack of medical attention; failure to segregate seriously ill and possibly contagious prisoners; censorship of attorney-client mail; lack of recreational materials—books, magazines, checkers, etc.; homosexual assaults; cruel and degrading punishment with no opportunity to defend oneself on the charges; lack of sufficient heat and sufficient blankets in the winter and of air in the summer; failure to provide access to attorneys and families; visiting conditions designed to humiliate the prisoner and strain family bonds—all these and more are the daily fare of inmates who have not yet been found guilty of any crime and who may never be found guilty. It is a mindless process which dehumanizes its victims and indicts our system of justice.

Ironically, once a man has actually been convicted—the status of twenty percent of the inmates—his situation improves measurably. He is permitted to bathe and shave more often; visiting conditions are less barbaric; he has the opportunity to exercise and use the prison library.

PUNISHMENT WITHOUT CRIME

This report focuses on the conditions in the Jail. It does not concern itself with the legal status of the inmates. But one central fact must be kept always in mind: Four out of five of the inmates of the D. C. Jail have not been convicted of crimes. They are subjected to the conditions described throughout this report *before* trial and *before* sentencing, and they are, according to the law of the land, innocent. By the time they come to trial, to be judged "innocent" or "guilty," the majority will have already been deprived of their freedom for substantial periods of time and have been subjected to punishment that would be considered cruel and unusual if applied to convicted criminals.

The large-scale detention of individuals not convicted of crime is a national commonplace. A jail census completed early in 1971 showed that 52% of the inmates of city and county jails in the United States had not been convicted of a crime. But in the D. C. Jail, the percentage is considerably higher—80% of the inmates are there awaiting trial.

For two, ten, twenty months, those who are accused of crimes in the District of Columbia, and who cannot get released on their own recognizance or buy their freedom with bail, rot mentally, physically and spiritually in the D. C. Jail. The life they live there is known to few of their fellow citizens in the middle-class world. In this outside world, people who are accused of breaking the law generally have enough money to avoid jail before trial. The inmates of the D. C. Jail are those who are too poor, or too broken, or too unsure of their rights to stay out of it. And their stay in the Jail further depletes their resources, breaks them further, and often takes from them the rights they never knew they had.

In 1971, the Washington Pretrial Justice Program of the American Friends Service Committee conducted a survey at the D. C. Jail to define the status of inmates there as of December 13, 1970. The survey consisted of interviews with 596 inmates, all of whom were awaiting trial. The researchers discovered that about one-third of the men had been locked up for periods ranging from three to 35 months; one-third had been there for one to three months; and the remaining one-third had been in for less than one month.

The Friends Service Committee also found that there was "no discernible relationship" between the size of the prisoners' bonds and the nature of the charges against them, and that almost half of the men said they were in jail because they could not make bond. Among the report's conclusions were these:

. . . Some judges endeavor to set bond on the basis of their evaluation of the defendant's circumstances. But it is also apparent that some judges are using high bond as a form of punishment or as a convenient means of preventive detention. This is an abuse of the purpose of bail . . .

To those 23 citizens who have been called 'inmates' and treated as such for one year or more without a trial—and to those 77 jailed for half a year or more—and to those 119 jailed for three to five months—the claim that under our system of justice a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty is at best a pious mockery. More likely and more pointedly, it is a damning revelation of how little they count as persons under our system of justice. What does it matter to a man whether he is adjudged 'innocent' or 'guilty' if he has already been locked up for months or years?

For those 290 men who lacked the money or the real estate or the influence to make bond, justice is for the rich, the propertied, the influential. If a man is treated so unjustly before his trial, what justice may he expect in the trial itself?

Underscoring the AFSC conclusions is a 1969 Corrections Department study which indicates that more than one out of three persons held in pre-trial detention in the D. C. Jail are ultimately released without being convicted of any crime whatever.

It has always been the position of the American Civil Liberties Union that except in capital cases, pre-trial detention is unconstitutional. If pre-trial detention is nevertheless employed, those who are detained should be subject to the minimum of inconvenience and entitled to the maximum of freedom and contact with the outside world and for the very limited period permissible under the constitutional guarantee of speedy trial. Such a period of detention might conceivably stretch out for some weeks; no justification exists for extending it into the months and years now frequently served by pre-trial prisoners in the D. C. Jail.

Most of all, we do not accept the premise that the function of the D. C. Jail is to mete out punishment to people who have not yet been tried and found guilty. Yet punishment is the underlying mode of the D. C. Jail as presently administered. Punishment is woven into the fabric of jail life—from the needless humiliations inflicted on the entering inmate in the intake procedures, to the cellblock housing, to the physical torture he suffers in "the hole."

(Please turn to page 16)

The Presidential Building: following in George's footsteps

SAM SMITH

I HAPPENED by coincidence (or was it the conscious intervention of fate?) to be reading Marvin Kitman's engaging and instructive historical put-down, "George Washington's Expense Account," as I was attempting to comprehend the mysteries of the school system deficit. To date, this book has been the most clarifying document I have read relating to the school financial problems, not excluding the Commissioner's Task Force Report, the Price-Waterhouse Summary, or Hugh Scott's 88-page explanation dated Feb. 9, which supercedes the one of Feb. 3 and those prior to it.

To first explain the problem with George Washington (since that is simpler than explaining the problem with the school system), it seems that the Father of Our Country, in lieu of receiving a salary, submitted an expense account for the eight years he led the American rebels in their battle against British oppression, financial and otherwise. This account totaled \$414,108.21 plus \$7,488 in interest plus \$27,665.30 in expenses for his wife during her visits to the battlefield. Kitman's thesis is that not only was Washington the father of our country; he was father of the expense account as well and documents the point item by item. One dated Sept. 8, 1781, will suffice for our present purpose:

To Household Expenses from the close of Major Gibb's acct Nov. 21, 1780 till the commencement of them by Lt. Colfax the 6 of September 1781 — amounts from the best accounts & Estimates that can be had & from recollection (exclusive of what was obtained by bartering a little salt wch was put into the hands of the Housekeeper for that purpose) to at least* \$20,800.

*This business during the above Interval was in such a variety of hands for want of a proper Steward (wch in vain by myself & others endeavoured to obtain) — and the accounts were not only irregularly kept, but many of them were lost or mislaid, & some of them so defaced as not to be legible, that it is impossible for me to make out a statement of them; But as it comprehended that space of time in which the French & American armies formed one camp at Philipsburg & our Expenses were at the highest; and is this sum corresponds (sic) as nearly as can be expected with the average Expenditures per Month as will appear by Lieut Colfax's accts since — The above sum is charged under these circumstances, upon the principle which seems most equitable to do justice to the public, and no injustice to myself.

Kitman says of this: "Nothing can be added to this gem, one of the greatest qualifying statements in expense account writing."

Nothing as colorful and creative appears in any of the school system's explanations of its financial situation, but what its justifications lack in quality they more than make up in quantity. On Feb. 7, the Board of Education asked school superintendent Hugh Scott eight questions.

On February 9, he replied with an average of eleven pages a question. During the approximately 16 working hours that intervened, the Presidential Building churned out replies at the rate of 5.5 pages an hour.

There was a time when this herculean effort would have received its proper award. But the new Board of Education is not afraid to admit it doesn't understand bureaucratic obfuscation or to say that it doesn't particularly like it, so once again the board delayed action on a number of important matters to await the arrival of a few simple — but critical — facts.



HUGH SCOTT

That so much work on the part of the school administration should produce so little satisfaction may help to explain why nobody yet knows for sure what last year's school deficit was or what this year's will be. The latest official figure for this year's deficit, compiled c. Feb. 9, is \$3.7 million. But this total is based upon a brief examination of a task force of the Commissioner, whose accounting system has recently been honored in the Senate and elsewhere as being one of the worst in the country. Further, since none of the underlying assumptions or supporting data for the projection had been publicly released as of the middle of February, there was no way of judging the validity of the District Building's tally.

Hugh Scott's handling of the matter has not been very reassuring. On Feb. 7, he submitted a document to a School Board committee meeting that claimed that there would be a surplus in the impact aid budget (separate from the regular budget) of \$2 million for this fiscal year. This presumably could go to make up some of the deficit in the regular budget. But at the committee meeting, Scott broke some bad news: the document was wrong because the estimates of impact aid receipts for last and this fiscal year were \$2 million too high. Then Scott broke some good news: this wasn't as bad as it sounded because his estimate of impact aid expenditures was also too high; by a factor of \$1.4 million.

So two big mistakes — a two million dollar one and a \$1.4 million one — worked against each other leaving Scott with one little mistake of only \$600,000. Curiously, both mistakes

were discovered after the report had been prepared for the Feb. 7 meeting but before it was presented. For a school system that can't add up its payroll, this seemed like unusually speedy and serendipitous accounting and the committee asked Scott to explain where the unexpected saving was coming from.

Now watch my hands closely. On February 9, Scott went before the full board and told them that at least \$100,000 in savings in the impact aid budget would come from items transferred to the regular budget. In other words, the budget deficit in the regular budget would be partially covered by transferring funds to the impact aid budget which had a surplus in part because funds had been transferred from it to the regular budget.

It is precisely for such reasons that no government agency should ever be forced to work under a single, unified budget. Without the freedom to transfer funds, without some bread to soak up the gravy, an agency could be in as much trouble as an O. Roy Chalk without subsidiary corporations.

Incidentally, the other savings in the impact aid budget are equally interesting. I'm happy to report that the school system overestimated the amount of money it would need for reading clinics, breakfast milk program, bus tokens, tutorial programs, food services and work scholarships. When times get tough, Hugh Scott knows how to cut the frills as well as anyone.

Meanwhile the school system will continue to struggle along with only one custodian and/or bus driver for every 4.5 teachers and one administrator or clerk for every 5.5 teachers. Like any good army, in the school system it's what's up back that counts.

(Author's note: I started writing this piece at approximately 4:11 p.m., February 14. Little did I know that some twenty-one minutes later, a school budget official would approach Scott and (as I imagine the scene) say with as much nonchalance as he could muster, "Er, Dr. Scott, you better add 4.7 million to those figures.")

As Scott was to admit later that evening to a school board committee, his budget department staff had "forgotten" to add the 4.7 million to the system's budget request for next year. My mind reels as the thought of what new arithmetic amnesia may be uncovered at the Presidential Building even as this paper is being printed and dispatched to its readers. It should be noted, however, that while 4.7 million seems like more than 3.7 million, one million, or \$600,000, it is unlike these other funds in that it has not yet been spent or committed beyond reprieve. We must not, as they often say at the Board of Education these days, just consider the negative.

Scott clearly wants to deal with the problem of the system's finances. One of his major proposals is to hire a new deputy superintendent

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to handle budgetary problems — and more than a score of new personnel to back him up. If this doesn't work, there are a gaggle of audits in the works, which should tell us in a couple of years where we went wrong last year.

Meanwhile, no one has offered any assurance that the system can come up with a reasonably simple way of determining whether it is spending more money than it gets. While it is important to know that money is being spent right, it is even more important to know whether you have any money to spend. And it doesn't seem wise or necessary to wait much longer to find out.

Fortunately 87% of the school's regular budget goes to personnel and there is hope that we'll soon have a rough idea of how the administration spends it. The payroll is currently being analysed and put into some form from which summary information can be extracted. Why this hasn't been done before is just one of the mysteries we'll have to live with, but apparently it is easier for the school system to be ambiguous when filing withholding taxes with the federal government than it is for smaller employers. It's hard to imagine one of the other large outfits in town telling the IRS that it thinks this is how many employees it has and how much they are paid, but it's not quite sure and if you will just wait awhile. . . .

The rest of the budget is made up of items on purchase order etc., where the slippage is a bit harder to trace — especially when, as has happened, numerous orders get filed and forgotten in desk drawers. Nonetheless, for its own protection, the School Board might demand that the Presidential Building give a regular accounting for how many purchase orders have been issued and paid for. The board can't afford to wait for an audit to devise a system to accomplish this. Nor should it have to. If I can't use my United Virginia BankAmericard without Richmond knowing about it right away, I would think it would be possible to insist that nobody spends money in the school system without the system knowing it with reasonable promptness.

And if it takes too long to train the computer, a bank of adding machines could hold the fort temporarily. Then Price-Waterhouse, GAO, and Walter Washington can do their audits with their accustomed deliberation.

Audits are supposed to uncover mismanagement and crooks. We already know there is mismanagement. The crooks, if any, can be uncovered in due course. The main problem before the school board is to stop millions of

dollars from drifting aimlessly about on a sea of purchase orders and vouchers.

AT the Feb. 9 meeting the board passed a motion inviting Julius Hobson to compile a table that could be used for determining whether the school system was in compliance with the Wright decision on equal spending. The proposal concluded: "The Board requests Mr. Hobson to prepare Tab Plans (skeleton charts with blanks for the appropriate figures) further to assist the Board in the collection and analysis of data on all public school expenditures; provided, however, that any services rendered by Mr. Hobson pursuant to this request shall be at no expense to the board."

Charles Cassell, commenting on the irony of the last provision, noted that the board had spent \$87,000 for the Price Waterhouse study; was considering the expenditure of another \$60,000 for the continued services of Price Waterhouse, had spent \$40,000 for statistics used futilely to fight the Hobson case; and had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to prove in court the error of Hobson's arguments — which were shown to be statistically valid. All

this money had produced little or nothing to date. "At least we have one resource in the city that is reliable," remarked Cassell of Hobson.

Hobson has sat in his office using an aged calculator which looks as though it was World War II surplus and has managed to out-count the school system and its consultants for half a decade.

So the mystery is penetrable. The problem is to know which numbers are important and then add them up. Unfortunately, to do so goes against the entire history of governmental finance — as far back as George Washington. Kitman notes that Washington used 42 basic principles of expense account writing, one of which is of particular relevance to those of us who live today in the city that bears his name:

"Be specific on the smaller expenditures and vague on the larger ones. Describe in some depth the purchase of a ball of twine, but casually throw in the line, 'Dinner for one army.'"

As the purchase orders and vouchers pile up at the Presidential Building, it is comforting to know that there is such a grand precedent for not being able to find out what the hell is going on.

SHOP TALK

JEAN LEWTON

THE Estate Book Store at 1724 H Street, NW sells used books — a commodity rapidly vanishing from the Washington scene. Ten years ago there were almost a dozen such stores here, but now there are only 5 or 6. At least two are now located in the suburbs. Reasons for the demise of used book stores range from urban renewal to old age; but whatever the reason, the places where DC residents can buy good used books are few and far between.

Most people picture the owner of a second-hand book store as a stooped 90-year-old man in a decrepit out-of-the-way shop in a decaying neighborhood. Harold Wilcox, the fifty-year-old owner of Estate Book Sales, belies that image. His book store is in a two-story building in a prime location and there's nothing dusty or moldy about his book shelves. The books may be old or just last year's best-sellers, but there's no smell of mold anywhere.

What's obvious about Harold Wilcox is that he is a businessman and bookman in equal portions.

It was the middle of the depression when Wilcox graduated from college with a degree in journalism. His first job was in advertising but eventually he joined the Office of War Information in Washington. After a go-round with the federal bureaucracy he returned to advertising. He hated it. The agency folded about three years later and promised a column in a soon-to-be published golf magazine, he took a night job with a local theater as it's manager.

The golf magazine never made it off the ground and Wilcox was left with his night job. In order to pass the time of day he started going to book sales at estate auctions. With the good will of the theater owner, he would spread out his purchases on the theater seats during the day and invite his friends in to buy books. He sold them cheaply and quickly.

By 1948 Harold Wilcox realized that his book-selling was more than an avocation and he opened an establishment at 1807 H Street, NW, calling it Estate Book Sales. Located on the third floor of the building and open only on Sundays, it attracted so many Washington book fanatics that lines extended over half a block just for the privilege of climbing two steep stairways to an unheated room in order to purchase a book which might be rare, but would never sell for more than fifty cents.

Four years later, the store was moved to 722 17th Street (a second floor location). With the help of his wife, Dorothy, the store expanded its hours; but the Sunday 5¢ to 50¢ sale

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continued. When this building was slated for demolition, Wilcox moved to an 1820 vintage building at 1749 Pennsylvania Avenue. In this location business increased threefold. One day, however, he received a notice: "building being torn down for urban renewal."

Wilcox carefully inspected his lease and found that he could legally stay at that location for another two years. Also, he was lucky enough to find a reasonably-priced space in the same area just in back of his present store. He immediately took out a lease on the H street building and proceeded to sell books from both stores until forced to move. His current lease runs until 1976.

At the H Street location, business continued to increase. He cut out the Sunday sales but he was able to have his bookstore open more hours of the day, more days of the week. Since then his prices have gone up. A buyer would be hard put to find a book for only 5¢, but you can still pick up bargains from his "Dutch Sales". (Books which he wishes to get rid of are placed on a special book shelf. Every day the price gets lower and if they're not sold by Thursday they're thrown away.)

Over the years, Wilcox has noticed a change in clientele. Originally, his customers were book collectors looking for a rare book at a bargain. Then they were the professionals — librarians, scholars — seeking a book on a particular subject. Now he's back to book collectors, but with a difference.

"The new buyers are young and they are affluent and they want to learn... Things that were considered quite common are now wanted... Things we used to sell for 50¢ now sell for a few dollars... This generation isn't missing anything. What they don't know, they'll discover... Maybe they have more money to become bonafide collectors, maybe not; but at least as far as I'm concerned the percentage of people reading and buying books has risen... but maybe I'm in a better location."

Although he's never been too keen about taking over the stock of other bookstores he did buy 6,000 books when Lowdermilk's went out of business. However, these were books that Lowdermilk's had never offered to the general public. His first large stock came from buying 2,000 books from U.S. Storage Bookstore. At that sale he went in with about \$20 in his pocket.

Nobody else arrived at the Sloane auction and he picked up the contents of 7 tables for \$14.

Wilcox no longer sells by price. His current store is arranged by subject and with the exception of paperbacks which sell for 1/2 of the imprinted price, all books are marked by him according to value. Value is derived by guess, book auction records, and demand. He has also stopped buying in quantity and is now primarily interested in quality and in acquiring books in his specialty fields. These include first editions, books on DC, Americana, American History, the American west and anthropology and sociology.

Estate Book Sales also does book searches; out their current want-list is so long that he prefers not to take any other search customers. Wilcox also does book appraisals.

The store is open from 11:30 to 6 during the week and from 10 to 7 on Saturdays. Ms. Genivieve Linebarger is his help-mate during the week. Patty Strattman puts up books and is in charge of the paperbacks. On Saturdays the store is in the charge of John E. Noland who has been with the National Archives for 30 years as a professional librarian.

THE SWAMPOODLE REPORT

I'VE been busy counting the number of local officials and organizations that have "gone on record against the racist remarks" of Rep. John Rarick of Louisiana concerning self-government for DC. I'm up to 4,138 and am going to declare a consensus unless someone objects. After all, when not only WMAL and several racist congressmen condemn racist remarks, but Walter Fauntroy and Sterling Tucker too, that's power. I was glad to see Fauntroy and Tucker get mad. I was wondering what it would take.

ONE of Henry Kissinger's girl friends has tipped me off to a deal that Nixon is going to propose to Mao. He will refuse to budge on the Taiwan issue, but will offer him Washington's Chinatown as a compromise. But Mao may be too smart for that. After all, Nixon wanted to take the White House limosine with him, but the Chinese vetoed that as an insult to the quality of their own vehicles. Mao not only wouldn't buy a used car from Nixon, he won't even borrow one.

IF THE Chinatown deal falls through, the Administration and Congress are going to press for the center city sports arena and convention center anyway. The White House, however, says it recognizes the "important input of the Chinese community to Washington" and promises to allow a fortune cookie concession at basketball games. It's all part of the plan to bring more people into downtown at night. These days you're lucky to find a building downtown you can enter after six p.m. without having to sign in with a guard. Things have gotten so bad that when a friend of mine walked into Bassin's at ten the other evening, Julian Dugas jumped out of the shadows and strung a red ribbon across his mouth and Walter Washington got out of bed to run down and cut it.

Congressmen hope to call the arena and convention center the Dwight D. Eisenhower Bicentennial Center, but a few people are pushing to name it the Robert Short Memorial Sports Palace, Great Gilbert Hahn Astrobubble and Thomas Airis Parking Lot. My friend, Allen McFidge, who spends his nights at Ryan's Bar (where he's known as "Boozey Allen"), has done a report on the problem. He says that 400 of the projected 1500 jobs to be created by the center will be hot-dog hawkers and another 750 will be parking lot attendants. He says that Washington will be a great place to live after the center goes up — if you're a Buick.

Allen thinks that if the city were really interested in people being downtown at night, it would put up houses instead of office buildings and convention centers. "The way to keep people in the city," says Allen, "is to give them a place to sleep."

I READ where Dr. Thomas Moore got arrested the other day for dispensing methadone prescriptions without proper controls. Dr. Moore is in private practice. Dr. Robert Dupont works for the government, does the same thing, and doesn't get touched. Shows how far socialism has progressed in this city.

HENRY Jackson is introducing a change in the Constitution to prohibit bussing. It will be called the Yellow Peril Amendment. That just about concludes my roundup of legislative, political and sociological matters for this fortnight except to remind you that there is only one place in town you can ride mass transit free: the Capitol subway. Which goes to prove that subsidized public transit can be an important factor in helping the unskilled and untrained find employment.

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NEW STUDIO NOW OPEN ON 8TH ST. SE
Classes are forming 8 week sessions
543-9152
WORDEN ROBINSON ART POTTERY
SALES: WHEELS-KILNS
Cheapest ready to use clay in town

FOR SALE

RALEIGH three-speed fold-bike. \$45.
Call 543-5850 and ask for Sam.

BASEMENT SALE: 2 marble top tables,
2 old clocks, roll away cot, odds and
ends. Call evenings LI7-6376.

CLASSES

3HO FOUNDATION offering 8-day course
in Tantric Yoga, March 15-22, 5-10 p.m.
Tantric Yoga is science of male-female
relationships, provides technique through
which man and woman can learn to relate
to each other in a higher consciousness.
Info & reservations: Ahimsa Ashram,
1704 Q NW, 483-6660. By donation.

MISC

NEED a place? We need someone to
expand our nuclear family (two kids)
and help with the hassles of running a
household. Live in NW, near Walter
Reed. Kitty and Ward. 829-6882.

RIDE NEEDED to and from school for
6-year-old, leaving 6th and E Sts. SE,
8:30 a.m. to 18th and Columbia Rd, NW
and returning 2:30 p.m. weekdays. Call
J. Lee, 543-4951.

EDDIE TRAINOR your father seriously
ill. Please call Steze, 345-8555.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

POLITICS

THE DC STATEHOOD PARTY CONVENTION CALL February 26

Brent School All-Purpose Room
3rd and D Streets, S.E., Tel. 629-6837
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, February 26
Bring your own bag lunch.

AGENDA:

Ratify by-laws
Adopt a platform
Select a DCSTP-endorsed candidate for delegate
Decide our role in 1972 presidential politics

ANDREW PULLEY, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for Vice-President will speak Wed., Feb. 23 at:

9:00 a.m. - Assembly, Wilson High School, DC
2:15 p.m. - Marshall High School, Falls Ch., Va.
8:00 p.m. - Trinity College, DC

Thursday, Feb. 24 at:

3:00 p.m. - Wilson High School, DC
8:00 p.m. - Georgetown Univ. Gaston Hall

Friday, Feb. 25 at:

2:30 p.m. - Howard University, DC.
For further information call: 783-2363

THE Democratic Reform Committee is holding a fund-raising party at Slogers Bar, 2021 P NW, every Saturday from noon to five p.m. \$2.00 per person plus drinks.

On Feb. 28 the DRC will hold a cocktail party at P.T. Barnum's, 2031 Penna. Ave. NW, from five to eight p.m. \$5.

On March 3 there will be a soul food banquet at St. Mark's Church, 3rd & A SE, from nine p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Food and dancing.

PEACE

THERE will be a national student anti-war conference in New York City on Feb. 25-27 sponsored by National Youth for McGovern, the Association of Student Governments, the Student Mobilization Committee, the National Student Lobby, and the International Student Movement for the UN. Everyone has a voice and a vote. Roundtrip bus tickets cost ten dollars.

THE Washington Peace Center, along with several other groups, is sponsoring a conference on conscientious objection that will take

place on Feb. 26 from 9 to 4 at the Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol St. There will be workshops on conflicts between the objector and the Selective Service, alternate service, and war resistance. \$1 fee.

THE White House 24-hour vigil continues. To volunteer or help, call 546-8840.

THE Washington Area Peace Action Coalition has general meetings each Thurs at 8 p.m. at 1346 Conn. Ave. NW 293-3855.

DISTRICT GOVT.

THE Community Recreation Advisory Board of the DC Dept. of Recreation will hold a public hearing, Feb. 23 at 7:30 at the Melvin C. Sharpe Health School, 13th and Upshur, NW. Requests by citizens on recreation needs should pertain to items and projects to be considered for 1974 budget submission.

FAMILY PLANNING

THE Family Life Division of the Childbirth Education Association offers programs to help new parents with various aspects and problems of childrearing. The programs are open to the public. Dr. Charles Flatter of the Institute of Child Study, U. of Md., will speak about "Discipline—Beginnings to Preschool" on Mar. 17 8:00 p.m., Larchmont Elementary School, 9411 Conn. Ave, NW, Kensington Md. Info: Ms. Cur-tice, 927-0178.

MISC.

CO-OPT will meet on March 14 at 8 p.m. at the Church of the Pilgrims, 22nd & P NW. Co-opt is a group that is engaged in studying and taking action on problems of metropolitan growth.

THE PEOPLE'S FUND is sponsoring a Bazaar and Bake Sale Saturday, Feb. 26 at St. Mark's Church, 3rd and A Sts. SE from 12 noon until 5 p.m. Coffee and entertainment will be provided free. There will be clothes, books, records, chairs, tables, stools, small appliances etc. for sale. For information about donations call Isabel Holt, 234-5477 or 296-4272. Donations can be left at Deacon's Store between 12 noon and 9 p.m. at 1724, 20th Street, NW. Information about the bake sale, call Ms. Christine Norman, 462-5261.

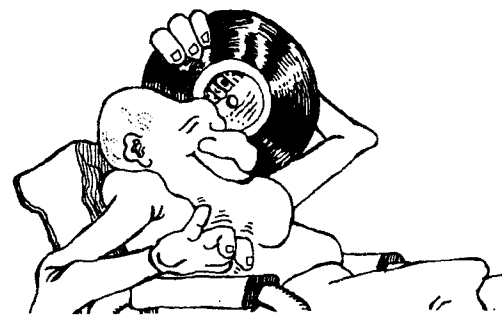
THE DC Chapter, Religious Public Relations Council, will sponsor an all-day news-

letter workshop for area churches, Tues, Feb. 29 at the Woodside United Methodist Church, 8900 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, Md. Registration is at 9 a.m. The workshop is designed to give aid to churches which publish newsletters.

REGIONAL auditions for outstanding singers and dancers interested in joining the Wolf Trap Company will be held at the Commerce Dept. Auditorium, 14th & Constitution, Washington on Feb. 26 and 27. Singers should report at 11 a.m. or 4 p.m. Dancers should report at 2 p.m.

Singers will be expected to bring their own music and to sing two contrasting selections without benefit of microphones. They may bring their own accompanist or use the one provided. Dancers will be asked to do ballet, modern and jazz combinations upon instructions from a choreographer. Info: George Berklacy, Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, 1100 Ohio Drive, DC (426-6700).

THE Washington Area Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (WACADA) needs volunteers to compile a directory on area-wide services available for the treatment of drug addiction and alcoholism. An organizational meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 23 at the WACADA office, 1330 New Hampshire, NW, Suite 1. Info: 466-2323.



ROCK musicians may find themselves going the way of Ludwig van Beethoven, according to two San Francisco researchers, who have conclusively demonstrated a hearing loss in 41 of 43 musicians studied.

According to Dr. Rayford C. Reddell of the San Francisco Hearing and Speech Center and Dr. Charles P. Lebo, an ear, nose and throat specialist, the decibel level of rock music far surpasses acceptable limits, and causes irreversible nerve damage to the ears of performers as well as fans.

In a nine-month study of 43 San Francisco rock musicians, the doctors found a permanent loss in 41 cases, and tinnitus (a ringing in the ears) in all.

Listeners, rather than being protected by distance, are doubly threatened by amplification. Fans grooving their stereo through ear phones are likewise exposed to damaging decibel levels.

For performers, who had previously rejected visible ear protectors, the doctors recommended flesh-colored, custom-made ear plugs. Among fans, who pay their money to hear the music, this protection is not likely to become popular.

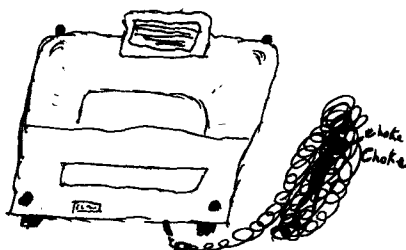
Dr. Reddell said that he feels the hearing loss, which threatens to be a widespread issue, will cause "true social problems."

—AFS

AGGRAVATED BY DC TRANSIT?

The way to improve DC Transit is to replace it; not subsidize it. To form a non-profit transit company we have to prove there is a need. (The transit commissioners don't ride buses so we need proof!) Send us all of your gripes about DC Transit; are they late, are they dirty, is the driver polite, are they hot in the summer, cold in the winter...please, all gripes!!

DC Cooperative Transit
% DC Statehood Party
1346 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20003



COLLECTIVE needs large apartment or house Dupont Circle area. 2 bedrooms or more. Call 387-1145.

COMPOSER-operator wanted for Source, a movement publication now through April. IBM selectric composer. Few hours now, building to fulltime near deadline. Call 387-1145.

THE ARTS

MUSIC

ANTON WOOD: Seatrain

IN late January Seatrain huffed and puffed its way to the Cellar Door whistle-stop and unloaded a weeks supply of good music. Sitting in the Holiday Inn a bridge away from the Cellar Door, Andy Kulberg, founder of Seatrain, sipped cough syrup and remarked, "Our music is basically a combination of four strains: country style sound, English fold music, classical and rhythm & blues."

Kulberg said he formed Seatrain because "I had played in a blues band (Blues Project), and one of the reasons why I stopped was because I felt it was unsatisfactory — in the sense that after watching Muddy Waters play blues, then you would try to play blues and have to work at it. Then you know you are doing the wrong trip. So essentially I had to try to find my roots in music, so when I play it, I could feel the way Muddy Waters feels when he plays blues."

Seatrain consists of lyricist Jim Roberts, percussionist Larry Atamanuik, Lloyd Baskin on keyboard and vocals, Peter Rowan on guitar and vocals, Richard Greene on violin and mandolin and Kulberg on flute and bass. Seatrain prefers to perform in smaller halls or clubs, like the Fillmore East or the Cellar Door. "We like small concerts because you can be heard and you do not have to compete with bad acoustics. Lloyd Baskin noted that appearing in a huge hall is like being in a gladiator ring. "You can not really contact your audience so you just appear for them and the sound is something like the lions eating Christians."

Kulberg characterizes the music business as a milking process. "There is really not much hope for smaller clubs with promoters devouring people. So most groups have out-priced the small clubs and there is not that much money around."

Seatrain does not consider itself to be a politically oriented group. "We do share a political point of view which is certainly not represented by Nixon, and it's probably not represented by McCloskey, Edward Kennedy or Muskie," Baskins noted.

The group has done benefit shows not because too many rock fans get ripped off, although they are concerned about rock exploitation. "But we do them because there are people who really need financial help. Bangladesh is a perfect example of what can happen when it's handled right."



Seatrain has produced two albums in the past two years. "Seatrain" (Capitol SMAS 695) and "Marblehead Messenger" (Capitol SMAS 829). They have given an electric element to country music, fused with jazz and classical concepts. Unlike other rock groups Seatrain also uses electric mandolin, electric flute and electric violin.

"Marblehead Messenger" generates the same kind of excitement and energy that Seatrain transmits to live audiences. Richard Greene's superb violin work is the cohesive strand that blends together all ten songs on this album. Lloyd Baskin is rapidly becoming one of the best vocalists in rock; he shows the ability to display clarity and force. Andy Klugberg does an excellent job on bass and also provides some refreshing arrangements on flute. The best selections include "London Song," "Protestant Preacher," and "The State of Georgia's Mind." It appears that Seatrain is on the right track toward realizing its potential as a top group.

FILMS

JOEL SIEGEL: 'A Clockwork Orange'

NORMALLY I wouldn't bother devoting an entire column to a movie as ponderous, clumsy and downright foolish as "A Clockwork Orange." A disaster like this, coming from a director whose work one has admired in the past, deserves the courtesy of silence or, at worst, a curt, unobtrusive dismissal. Unfortunately, the film has become an event, indeed, The Event, of the movie year and, I suppose, demands to be confronted head-on. We've been buried under magazines with cover stories proclaiming "The Genius of Stanley Kubrick"; the New York Film Critics have named "A Clockwork Orange" "Best Film of the Year." As if this weren't sufficiently moronic and distressing, the movie's attackers — principally Pauline Kael and, locally, Gary Arnold — have been acting as hysterically as its celebrators, issuing violent denunciations of the film's morality. (In his pious outrage, Arnold branded the film "uncalled for" as though movies were commissioned in advance to fulfill prior specifications and standards.) I concede that there are works of movie art so powerfully and perfectly formed that one can only object to them on moral grounds; "Triumph Of The Will" and, to a lesser degree, "The Birth Of A Nation" come immediately to mind. But a critic doesn't have to get a sad clinker like "A Clockwork Orange" on morality. Left alone, I suspect the shabby thing would have self-destructed.

I don't think that it's an act of kindness to apply the label "genius" to a movie director. Directors who have been so labeled — Fellini and Antonioni for example — have bottomed out from the moment that the word got around and they started believing it. (The most recent works of these geniuses are, respectively, "Satyricon" and "Zabriskie Point" — a trash duo if ever there was one.) Each of these "genius" filmmakers possessed small but very real talents: when allowed to work within his limited range of expression, each made good movies. But the press somehow managed to convince these skilled workmen that they were great creators with profound thoughts and visions and both



Ruby Grady at work on collage,
"Expiration Date."

LOCAL ARTISTS

ROBERT GATES at the Jefferson Place through March 4.

LEE WEISS at Franz Baders through March 4.

NANCY CUSICK at the Studio Gallery through March 4.

GROUP SHOW at the Art Barn through March 26.

WORK by artists of the Landscape Club of Washington at the Arts Club of Washington through Feb. 26.

BOB STARK at the Dupont Art Gallery through Feb. 26.

MEL BUTOR at Mickelson's Gallery through Feb. 29.

JAMES TWITTY at the Pyramid Galleries through March 1.

LOCAL THEATER

THE QUEEN AND THE REBELS, by Ugo Betti, at American University Theatre from March 2 through 11. Info: Mark Auerbach 686-2315.

THE PHILANTHROPIST, a British comedy at The Washington Theater Club through March 12. Info: 466-8860.

SUBJECT TO FITS at the Folger Library through March 5. Info: 546-4800.

BLACK PEPPER, music, dance and romantic skits on the contemporary scene every Thursday and Sunday night through April 2 at the Back Alley Theater. Info: 723-2040.

THE LONELIEST DWARF at the Open Stage, Feb. 24, 25, 26, 27 and Mar. 2, 3, 4, and 5. Info: 244-6333.

HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES at Arena Stage through Feb. 20. Info: 638-6700.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST at Arena Stage through Mar. 12. Info: 638-6700.

LOCAL MUSIC

THE DC YOUTH ORCHESTRA Brass Ensemble, Feb. 27 at 4 p.m. at the Upper Room Baptist Church. March 5, at 3 p.m. the Junior Orchestra will perform at Argyle Junior High, Montgomery County, Md.

were soon destroyed, cut off from their instinctive sources of artistic strength. I should be very much surprised if we ever get a decent movie from either of them again, and the same thing seems to be happening to a number of other gifted directors — Truffaut, Frankenheimer, Chabrol.

Like others before him, Kubrick has been praised away from that nitch in which he works most profitably and I can't imagine how he'll ever be persuaded to return to it again. Kubrick can be a skillful interpreter of novels: his best work was the intelligent, rather impersonal adaptation of "Paths Of Glory," "Lolita" and Lionel White's Clean Break ("The Killing"). None of these films is a work of genius and each is significantly flawed but they remain, for all of that, gratifying experiences — alertly observed and deeply felt. The trouble began when "Dr. Strangelove," a smartly conceived, shoddily executed nightmare comedy, elevated Kubrick to "genius" status. "Strangelove's" liberating, though adolescent, impudence seemed to obscure the fact that virtually every comic moment was mistimed, if not altogether fumbled. Kubrick then spent the next five years doing that metaphysical head movie, "2001: A Space Odyssey," a stunning piece of screen technology but otherwise one of the most pretentious and stupefyingly inert movies ever made. "Genius" has triumphed totally in "A Clockwork Orange" and even the technical sheen is gone — it's a cheap looking, graceless film. It's almost too embarrassing, for Kubrick's sake, to make any comment about the film's content because, in the course of preparing his screenplay, the director seems to have misunderstood his source material — Anthony Burgess's 1962 novel.

Setting his tale in the immediate future, Burgess offers a bleak vision of modern society in the closing stages of dehumanization. Cities are collections of characterless towers; the landscape is a wasteland roamed by bands of teen-age toughs. Alex, a particularly sadistic young thug, goes too far, murders a woman and is sent to prison where, after a time, he voluntarily submits to conditioning which will render him "good." Released and harmless, he is deconditioned by a series of encounters with violence and Alex is back to raping and beating as the novel ends. Burgess's point is fairly simple to grasp. In an aimless, mechanized society, violence becomes the only human outlet; in a society beyond good and evil, morality can only be a function of conditioning, not

reasoned choice. Kubrick, who is either a lousy reader or a venal opportunist, has turned Burgess's story into a celebration of sadistic behavior as a manifestation of natural impulse. When, as the film ends, Alex reverts to his original, brutish behavior, the soundtrack music grows triumphant and it's clear that he has beat the system — he's "himself" once more. By making the rest of society, particularly Alex's victims, as idiotic and grotesque as possible, Kubrick has managed to elevate him to the stature of hero. Malcolm McDowell's performance reinforces this false positioning. He is the only vaguely talented performer in the film's astonishingly paltry cast.

As though he were imparting truths too complex for quick comprehension, Kubrick restricts action to about the pace of a lame snail. The attempts at humor — like the breast milk dispenser at the milk-bar — are so witlessly strung-out that even the cockroaches in the theatre have guessed the payoff long before it arrives. Other "jokes" — like the surprise exposure of McDowell's genitals — have the smirkiness of grade school dirty jokes, not very satisfying coming from a grown-up "genius." For a film which seems to be celebrating the natural impulse to violent action, the sequences of raping and torturing and murdering fall amazingly flat. Deep-thinker Kubrick is so involved with the idea of violence that he seems unable to represent its reality on the screen. (At least crude bloodbaths like "Dirty Harry" and "The French Connection" have the ghoulsh talents to realize their low intentions.) As bad as the punk humor and bumbled violence are, and they are terrible, the rest is even worse. Kubrick's idea of exposition is to point the camera at a grouping of actors and let it run until they run down. When Alex returns home from prison and confronts his parents and their boarder, the poor, talentless actors squirm in excruciating discomfort before a static camera for nearly ten minutes. The only moment of vitality in this moribund movie is a minute-long stop-action mini-orgy which is lifted intact from "Greetings," the spirited youth comedy of several years ago. And just to make sure the movie stays dead, Kubrick has burdened it with a soundtrack that would have polished off "Bonnie and Clyde." The director was called "brilliant" when he played the Blue Danube while the planets whirled in 2001, so this time out, everything is smothered in music — Purcell, Rossini, Beethoven — played at top volume. It's bad enough to make one nostalgic for Max Steiner.

When Alex, stomping a female victim, sings "Singin' In The Rain" — an "idea" which we are assured arose spontaneously on the set — Kubrick virtually demolishes his own film. The reference to Gene Kelly's sublime moment of artistic self-control couldn't possibly be more damaging to this foolish, chaotic movie.

I know that my warning won't prevent you from going to see "A Clockwork Orange." It is, after all, The Event and you'll have to judge for yourself. Still, it's a shame that you'll have to throw away so much time and money on such an empty experience, particularly at a time when there are some worthwhile movies around. There's Edna O'Brien's deliriously vulgar sex-comedy "X, Y And Zee" with a triumphant Liz Taylor performance. And Louis Malle's dignified, revealing documentary portrait of Calcutta. And Paul Bogart's unexpectedly intelligent and entertaining racial comedy-western, "Skin Game," which I had unfairly avoided on first-run because of James Garner. If we are spared future Events by "geniuses," I may have an opportunity to write about them soon.

ART

ANDREA O. COHEN:
Ruby Grady

THERE is a fine line between settling into a characteristic style and falling into a rut, especially for an artist. Ruby Grady, whose work is on view at the Agra Gallery, is trying to define herself through a personal artistic idiom. But unlike many, she is too inventive and fascinated by the mundane and monumental, silly and tragic to flop into a fallow field and stay there stamping out an endless series of look-alike work.

Ever curious, she "likes truth better than fiction... But then are they always distinguish-



Paul Slapion

"FOUR WASHINGTON AREA PHOTOGRAPHERS", Betty Frampton, Michael Shapiro, Paul Slapion and Ronald Thomas, at Talking of Michaelangelo through March 17.



Michael Shapiro

able?" she muses. The truths that interest Ms. Grady run from social commentary through things sheerly beautiful, whimsical, humorous and even ridiculous.

Many of her didactic collages explore changes, such as those arising from oppressive



power, from the expiration of time and from the moon explorations. Although many of Ms. Grady's moon shot paintings are parodies, NASA has shown interest in acquiring some — free of charge, because of budgetary cutbacks.

Written words and letters are always part of Ruby Grady's visual statements. In some paintings they convey a didactic message; in others they are just textural adjuncts. In "War Continued," for example, the letters WAR march tyrannically over a blood red background, while inside a heart-shaped crown of thorns fingers grasp the printed notice of a son's death. In "Alpha Numeric," on the other hand, letters stencilled onto a crimson-hewed abstract landscape, merge into a pattern and serve only to further enliven an already moving sky.

In all Ms. Grady's work ingenious uses of the medium communicate the message. A weathered union jack is superimposed on yellowed news clips and antiqued mementoes in "Lincoln." "Power," on the other hand, is made up of sharply focused and framed vignettes of Hitler's life as well as photos of birds of prey, edged in bleeding red colors, brushed in with slashing strokes. While Ruby Grady's paintings rely heavily on collage, the painterly hand is always evident. She achieves brilliant color and textures through inventive uses of paint mixed with modelling paste and other binders.

Feeling that paintings of social commentary and parodies of the human condition eventually become commercialized, Ms. Grady is now most concerned with pursuing her historical

paintings, landscapes and sculpted work. Serene and quiet, the landscapes combine a subtle and quite lovely use of painted color with found objects.

Out of found objects she also constructs whimsical creatures distantly related to us humanoids. Thus, "The One-Armed Bandit:" He is made of car parts, with angle irons for legs and a moving tire bar for an arm. A gun-shaped water pump rests under his immovable arm, and a dairy can appropriately enough serves him as a belly. The figures, "Yes and No," (shown on this page) stand on railroad spikes, their breadbaskets this time made of car batteries.

Our reaction to hard times often betrays who and what we really are. Eight years ago Ms. Grady was first temporarily blinded and then paralysed in both legs for a year as a result of muscular dystrophy. "The doctor told me I had two years to live." Her comment: "Tee hee."

"Since then I've come to realize, we have no time to waste."

Ruby Grady's exhibit closes on February 19, but a portion of her work will remain in the gallery's front room indefinitely.

GALLERY 1, 3120 Georgia Avenue, NW was opened by the DC Commission on the Arts Feb. 18. The first of nine such galleries which will operate in each of the Commissioner's nine service areas, it will be funded by the National Endowment of the Arts.

NEWS NOTES

Sickle cell hassle

AS a result of black protest the National Institute of Health has cancelled an in-house sickle cell anemia (SCA) program designed to screen, counsel and educate victims of the disease. The protest raises serious questions: Is NIH the most appropriate place to lodge nationwide responsibility for research and screening of SCA? Is the Institute capable of the good judgment and sensitivity required of the SCA effort?

Most of the \$6 million appropriated by the federal government this year for SCA is concentrated in NIH, one-third of whose 12,000 employees are black.

The disease is this country's most common hereditary illness and afflicts mainly blacks. Not only does it inflict severe pain, stunt growth and seriously lower resistance to a host of other diseases, but most sufferers die before reaching thirty. Some two million persons in this country are carriers and an estimated 50,000 have the disease. About 1000 of the latter live in Washington.

Because the illness remains incurable and treatment is primarily symptomatic, attention is presently concentrated on mass screening and genetic counseling. (If two carriers marry, chances are one-in-four that their offspring will have the disease, two-in-four that they will be carriers.)

On Monday, January 30, the NIH Record, an in-house weekly, announced that a voluntary SCA program would be kicked off February 23 by Doc Ellis, Willy Stargell of the Pirates and Neal Boggs of WRC-TV.

Shortly thereafter, Arthur Parks, chairman of the Task Force for All Concerned Employees and a bio-laboratory technician became wor-

ried by reports that the program had been planned without consulting knowledgeable blacks.

True, four of the eight-man steering committee, appointed by NIH associate director, Dr. Jerome Block, were black. One, however, is a Ugandan scheduled to return to his native Africa shortly. No replacement for him has been chosen and Block told me he knew nothing about the man's forthcoming departure. Shirley Fletcher, who is in personnel management, was thought by blacks to lack necessary technical knowledge. Dr. David Orr claims he had no influence in planning the program. James Moone, the last of the black committeemen, was recently appointed chief of counseling and guidance and feels his short tenure and lack of medical expertise disqualified him from policy-making. He adds that black committee members were merely asked to rubber stamp plans outlined months earlier by Block.

Both Moone and Parks claim that when they questioned black input, Block asked Moone: "Don't you represent the black community?"

In explaining his choice of steering committee members Block says, "I chose them for their technical skills and then sought black input on the advice of the unions."

Moone felt strongly that Dr. Ronald Scott, head of the SCA research center at Howard should have been consulted and that the program needed professional re-evaluation before being put into effect.

On Wednesday, February 2, Parks contacted Dr. Scott who says he knew nothing about the project. The same day, Dr. Block presented his program to the Equal Employment Opportunity Council (EEO) for their required approval. They suggested he at least make the project look representative of black interests, but okayed it as it was.

What was so wrong with the program? According to Parks, the screening forms required participants to provide medical and psychiatric histories and the information would be included in personnel files. Twenty cc of blood were required when one cc, or a pin-



Mary Mikva and Douglas Johnson in "Black Pepper," at the Back Alley Theater through April 2. Photo by Valentine.

prick is ample for SCA testing. The screening pledges gave NIH authority to perform behavioral tests for purposes of research and genetic counseling.

To John Gibson of the DC Urban League, such procedures raised specters of "racial genocide." Says Moone: "All kinds of fears arise when there is much publicity about so touchy an issue and not enough planning or education."

Tuesday, the eighth, Block met with Parks after the latter had circulated fliers discouraging participation in the program. In answer to Blocks' statement that he had made new changes in the program, Parks asked: "Shouldn't you have notified us about this earlier?" Block's ironic answer: "I thought the EEO Council represented the black community." Parks straightened him out. As a result of pressure, the EEO Council did, however, request expansion of the SCA steering committee and further study of the proposed program. It was too late.

The next day, Thursday, the 10th, a protest involving some 200 persons took place. Dr. Ronald Scott, of Howard, declined to attend for fear of jeopardizing a federal grant which has been pending for four years. Dr. Robert Murray attended in his place.

According to Block the project is indefinitely postponed. "I was not aware fears ran so deep. One of the main problems was that I'm white," he concludes. —(AOC)

Cars and lead poisoning

THIRTY percent of DC ghetto children have dangerously high blood levels of lead. Black children are more susceptible to lead poisoning than white children because they have a relatively higher incidence of a genetic defect known as sickle cell anemia. Apparently sickled red blood cells are more susceptible to destruction by low blood lead levels. Furthermore, lead has adverse effect on children before they are born. "Exposure of mothers to lead has a damaging effect on fertility, the course of pregnancy, and development of the fetus," according to Lead Poisoning, by A. Cantarow and M. Triumph.

Where does the lead found in DC children's blood come from? City officials would have us believe it comes from leaded paint ingested by gnawing children. However, it has been estimated that one-third or more of the lead in city dwelling Americans comes from inhalation of airborne lead from automobiles. In Washington the proportion of lead contributed by automobiles is probably one-half or more because Washington has the highest automobile density of any American city. It is interesting to note that in Chicago (whose auto density is lower than DC) that only 5% of ghetto children had dangerous blood lead levels. Also, persons living near freeways have markedly higher blood lead levels than those living in the same area, one mile from the freeway.

In light of the well documented case that automobiles are the principle source of atmospheric lead, that inhaled lead produces elevated blood-lead levels, that in the ghetto the concentrations of atmospheric lead are highest, and that pregnant mothers and black children are acutely sensitive to lead poisoning, it would be genocide to build another foot of freeway through Washington.

A study must be done of the ambient levels of lead in Washington's downtown and these figures compared to the California standards. If the levels of lead are high they must be reduced. Since there is no indication when gasoline companies will get the lead out of gas, our only way to lower lead presently is to reduce auto use in DC. —(DANIEL B. FISHER)

IN their nearly identical reports, both Secretary Volpe and the District government at least have accepted the concept of an inner-city freeway network which — if it ever begins — could keep the road builders busy for some years to come.

—Star editorial

All God's Chillun Got Guns



Understanding rent guidelines

A WOMAN goes to a neighborhood law office about a problem involving her father's will. She mentions that she is in desperate need of the money her father left her because the landlord has increased her rent from \$85 to \$135 a month. She doesn't know that her rent can not be legally raised without a 30 day written notice or that she has a right to challenge the increase.

This woman is one of thousands of DC tenants who are unaware of their rights under the Price Commission's Phase II rent regulations. Because the rent guidelines are composed of complex gibberish and technical formulas incomprehensible even to the educated layman, the DC Neighborhood Legal Services Program has drafted the following simplified version of the safeguards contained in the regulations. (Note: all apartment houses of four or less units that are owner-occupied and have longer than a monthly lease are exempt. All single family houses with longer than a monthly lease are exempt, if the landlord owns four or fewer such houses):

I. DID YOU RECEIVE WRITTEN NOTICE OF THIS INCREASE BEFORE IT WAS DUE?

The law says that your landlord can raise your rent only if he notifies you in writing 30 days before the increased rent is due. The written notice must contain:

- 1) your old rent;
- 2) your new rent;
- 3) the dollar amount plus percentage of the increase;
- 4) the date the increase was effective;
- 5) your base rent;
- 6) what your increase is due to;
- 7) how the landlord computed your increase;
- 8) these statements, word for word:

(A) You have the right to examine the documentation which supports this proposed rent increase in order to satisfy yourself that the proposed rent increase is in accordance with the rent regulations prescribed by the Price Commission. This documentation is located at . . . ; and may be inspected upon request between the hours of . . . through . . . on . . . (specify days of the week).

(B) If you do not understand the basis for this increase or believe that the increase is not allowable under the rent regulations of the Price Commission, advise us and we will arrange a suitable meeting time with you at a location convenient to your residence to discuss the proposed increase and explain its justification.

(C) It is hereby declared under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing statements and facts are true to the best of my (our) knowledge and belief; and that the increase in your rent is not in violation of the Economic Stabilization Regulations.

II. HOW MUCH MAY YOUR LANDLORD RAISE YOUR RENT?

- 1) 2 1/2% over your old rent.
- 2) If you have a lease, 5% over rent he charged on May 25, 1970, for your apartment or one like it.
- 3) If your landlord has an increase in particular cost, he may charge you the amount of this increase.
- 4) If your landlord has improved your apartment by putting in a new heating unit, or a new refrigerator, or some other big change, he can raise your rent.

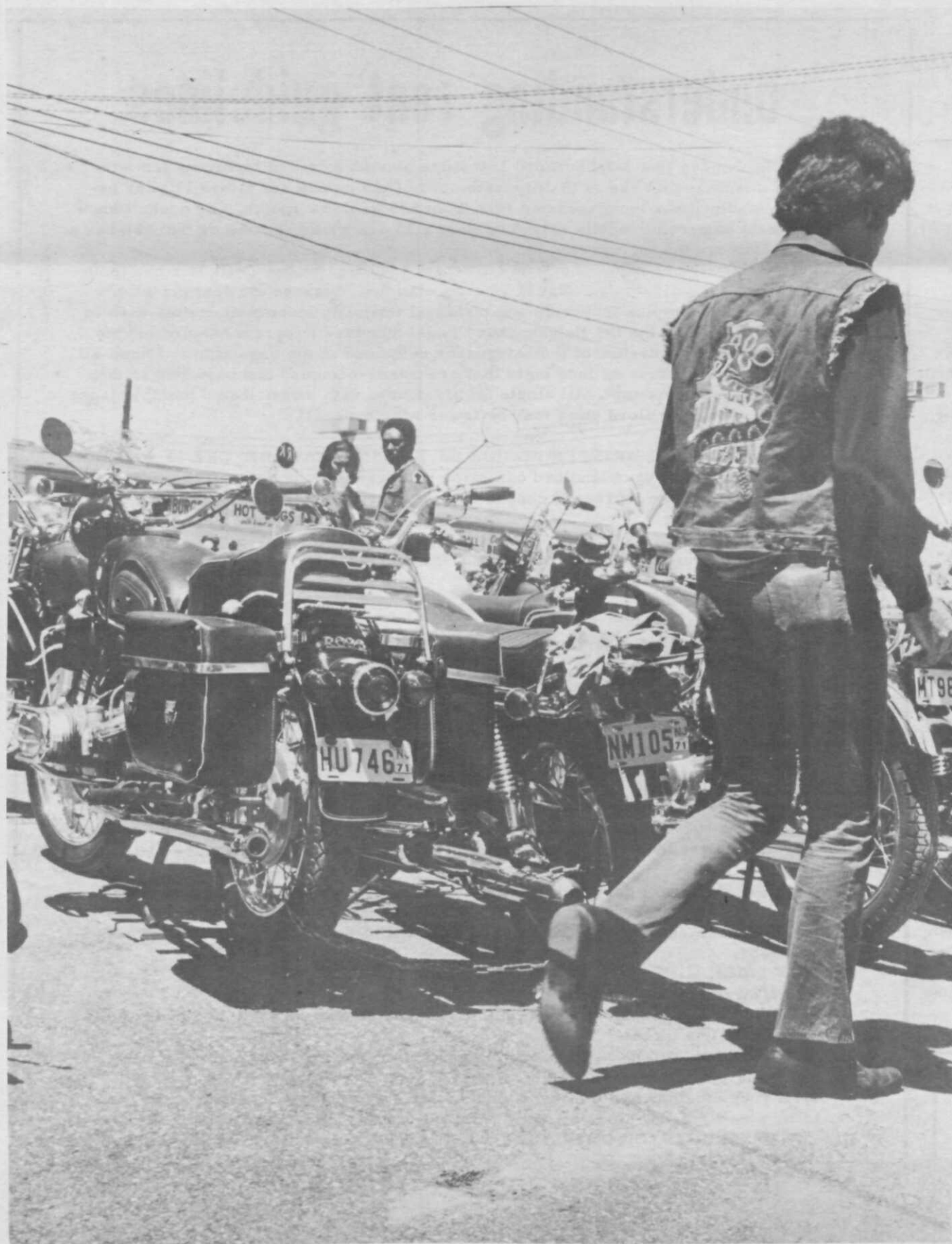
III. WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOUR LANDLORD RAISES YOUR RENT MORE THAN THE LAW ALLOWS OR WITHOUT GIVEN YOU WRITTEN NOTICE?

- 1) Call a lawyer or a neighborhood legal services office.
- 2) Meet with your landlord
- 3) Pay your old rent but not the increase.



f-stop: On a

AFTER seeing the movie, I was more than ever fascinated by the daredevils and their fantasies. I was intrigued by the aura surrounding them. I met and talked with some of them in Poughkeepsie, New York. These



COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR: JEAN LEWTON

SOUTHWEST

FRUSTRATED residents of SW filled the small auditorium of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church to let Waterside Mall developer Bresler & Reiner and their representative, Howard Lesser, know just how they felt about their leasing plans. The meeting was organized by Terry Maguire, a law student and Department of Transportation employee, who is chairman of the ad hoc committee on the shopping center for the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly.

The private developers had announced that they would provide "essential community services," but Maguire argued that the shopping center failed to do so. The community wants two supermarkets, two drugstores, a variety store, a post office, a hardware store and the acceptance of a Waterside Mall citizens advisory board to act as ombudsman for community complaints.

Maguire and the ad-hoc committee felt the emphasis in leasing was on services for the commuters who would occupy the buildings of the Environmental Protection Agency whose offices will surround the mall. "The question is," said Maguire, "how to make it serve the community."

Lesser acknowledged that he had failed to bring a hardware store, variety store or second grocery and drug store into the complex, but he had succeeded in getting ten minority businesses to enter the project including the Southwest Credit Union.

As he read his letters to various large stores and the answers they had given him, it seemed that the lack of needed businesses lay more with the stores than with the developer. No variety store (Kresge's or Woolworth's) was interested unless the mall had a large department store. In approving the complex the City Council bowed to the demands of downtown department stores and decreed no competition in the mall.

Hechinger's and People's hardware replied that there was no market in the area and that they no longer opened new stores in the city. Some smaller chain stores, such as Hahn's, which might be expected to lease space in SW

are precluded because of provisions in their leases at L'Enfant Plaza.

Lesser also cited difficulties with the present tenants of Town House Mall, Safeway and Peoples. Peoples wants an exclusive contract in the new mall which Lesser holds is contrary to urban renewal regulations; and Safeway is unwilling to leave its current small, but low rent store because it's now making a great deal of money.

Lesser's contentions were unpopular with the audience, but they seemed borne out by those who spoke for Giant, Safeway, Peoples and the Equal Business Opportunity Corporation (which had placed minority businesses in the Columbia mall).

When Eugene Doerffler, real estate manager for Giant, rose to speak a cheer went up. He began "You have to provide the people of the city with the same services as in the suburbs," but he then went on to say that although Giant wished to open a store in the mall, it wouldn't unless it could have the same kind of docking-unloading facilities it currently has at Tyson's Corner. As Lesser pointed out, "Safeway is willing to function with underground loading platforms, but Giant can't... We can push all sorts of walls around inside — we're flexible, but it took 6 years to get the exterior of the mall approved; and unless you want to wait another six years we can't provide the suburban-type docking space which Giant seems to feel is absolutely necessary to make the store economically feasible."

The Safeway representative, Ron Zachary, was booed when he said, "No matter what you think of our prices and our services, we've stayed in the city in locations that no other supermarkets would touch." Safeway has 44 stores east of Rock Creek Park. Giant and A&P combined have only 14 stores in all of DC — mostly west of the park. Zachary also agreed to meet with a committee from SW on the following day to discuss the deficiencies of the current store.

Another representative who was booed was James Kane from Peoples Drug. Kane was unable to satisfactorily explain why Peoples wished to have an exclusive lease in the Mall. Particularly galling to the audience was the knowledge that Rodman's Drugstore had told the ad-hoc committee they would come in with

a minority-run drugstore if Peoples would omit their exclusive clause from their negotiations.

Equally unpopular was the Postal Service speaker. The Postal Service is moving its facilities out of the Town House Mall into an abandoned supermarket facility at 1/2 and L. While admitting that the new facility is inconvenient, he felt it inevitable. Questioned closely by a high echelon postal official in the audience, he finally said the postal service would probably put an automated facility in the new shopping mall.

The 7,000 families of SW have been waiting for adequate shopping facilities for over ten years. They are not satisfied with what they are going to get. They pointed out over and over again things like: "What you're giving is worse than a West Virginia company town... Since when does competition hurt?... All we're interested in is getting food and the basic essentials. We're not getting it in what you're leasing..." As one red-faced, visibly upset woman put it: "If all we get in your shopping mall is Safeway... well, I won't shop at your shitty store any more, and here's my telephone number... I'll be happy to drive anyone out to the suburbs to shop." — (JL)

A LETTER FROM SW:

THERE is a powerful lobby supporting use of Parcel 76 for public parking as well as other strong opposition to use of Parcel 76 for any low or moderate cost housing for families with children.

Parcel 76 is in an Urban Renewal Area — not a project designed to create an exclusive affluent enclave in the inner city. Yet, thus far, Channel Square is the only concession to the low-income citizen. The plums in our area have gone to luxury housing, business, and government offices. Low cost housing is concentrated in a separate area.

If families with children, who are able to improve their living standard, are to be denied the chance to live in Urban Renewal Areas such as ours, where are they to go?

There are more than 500 such families on the waiting list for Channel Square. If the blight of inner cities is ever to be overcome — with the crime, drug addiction, vandalism, etc. that is self-perpetuating in environments that



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humiliate and embitter its occupants — there must be different, decent environments for those who wish to move and can do so.

Years ago the poor were forced out of their homes in this area by Urban Renewal. It is only just that some provision for housing be made for these people. Even so, designating Parcel 76 for low and moderate cost housing would be only a token response to the real needs, hardly a record to be proud of. However, at this late date, Parcel 76 is the only thing we have left to offer.

AUGUSTA SHACKFORD

CAPITOL EAST

CORRESPONDENT:

MARILYN LIEBRENT: 546-0647

THE proposed acquisition of the French School as an annex of the SE Library has been dropped from the budget by Commissioner Washington. There undoubtedly will be a strong community fight to get the item restored when it comes up before the City Council.

"YES, operator, Sesame Seed — not Sesame Street." Both organizations are located on 7th Street and the similarity in their names is causing confusion. The health food store, The Sesame Seed at 227 7th, SE was opened the third week in December by four area residents. The response has been so great that plans are now being made to include a frozen food section. During the spring and summer the store will provide fresh organic fruit and vegetables in season.

The Sesame Seed, which also goes by the name Natural Foods on the Hill offers a wide assortment of health food products from Pennsylvania and New York. Free recipes are available and they also stock sprouters. Store hours are from 9 to 6, Tuesday through Saturday.

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, 313 2nd, SE is holding a series of rummage sales. The last two sales will be held March 18 and 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Some of the items sold in the first two sales included a folding-bed exerciser, a brand new Hoover floor polisher and a pewter bud vase. Donations may be brought to the church or will be picked up. Info: David Marshall, 546-5381 or Rita Mendez, 544-0207.

HARLEY DANIELS, Delegate Walter Fauntroy's legislative assistant will speak to area residents at the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, 4th and Independence SE at 8 p.m., Feb. 28. Daniels, who lives on Capitol Hill, will present a summary of Fauntroy's first year in office. A question and answer session will follow. Noel Kane, president of the Capitol Hill Action Group which is sponsoring the talk, said this meeting will hopefully be the first of a series to bring influential DC speakers into the Capitol East community.

CAPITOL Architect George White met with representatives of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, Capitol Hill Action Group and others on Feb. 2nd. White is working on a unified plan for the entire Capitol Hill area and it is hoped he learned that Capitol Hill residents demand a piece of the planning action.

FOR ONCE the good-guys won in the DC planning game. In an 11 page opinion handed down on Feb. 7, the DC Court of Appeals agreed with the joint suit of the Capitol Hill Action Group, Capitol Hill Restoration Society, Southeast Civic Association and interested individuals that zoning commission practices had improperly approved change of zoning for a 10-story building at 14th and Pennsylvania SE.

The suit charged that citizens were not given adequate opportunity to testify, that no cross examination of the witnesses was permitted, and that the decision was reached in secret without explanation.

The decision has city-wide ramifications, especially in the hotly-contested cases of McLean Gardens and Friendship Heights. It vitiates all previous hearings by the zoning commission. All future hearings must be conducted under the District's Administrative Procedure Act which requires the commission to conduct hearings under due process of law.

ADAMS-MORGAN DUPONT CIRCLE

THE former Swiss Legation at 2013 Hillier Place, NW has become a victim of the wrecker's ball. Residents of the area accuse owner, Martha S. Dezendorf (widow of parking czar Arthur G. Dezendorf) of deliberately allowing the building to deteriorate so that she could use the property for commercial development. Located in a residential neighborhood, the now-vacant lot could be rezoned for a high-rise or be used as a commercial parking lot. Ms. Dezendorf currently owns a commercial parking lot on the corner of Hillier and Connecticut Avenue managed by PML.

UPPER NE

RESIDENTS of the Woodridge section of NE were overwhelmed when they won their long fight to keep a topless club out of the neighborhood. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board denied the liquor license renewal for the Purple Rouge because of the citizen protests. The board stated that community sentiments must by law be taken into account when renewing licenses.

NORTHWEST

DC CITIZENS fighting a shopping center development at the District line at Western and Wisconsin, NW are receiving vocal, well-financed help from their Montgomery County counterparts including the Montgomery County Planning Commission. The \$35 million project received preliminary approval in September, but a final decision is now delayed by a Feb. 7 Court of Appeals decision.

"DON'T use phrases any more such as 'task force,' 'special study group,' 'contracts for special groups to study,'" (Sen. Inouye) admonished the city officials including Mayor Walter E. Washington. Seconds after this warning, Deputy Mayor Graham Watt told the senator that "this doesn't mean we haven't made any improvements . . . in January the mayor asked me to be chairman on his behalf of a new financial improvements committee." —The Post

SHAW

ON Jan. 25th, Fides House, 1554 8th St NW, was surrounded by 14 police cars. The long-time neighborhood settlement house was then raided by the police. They broke the front door down, drew guns, shoved citizens from the steps and refused to tell the director and staff of the house the reason for the raid. John Mercer, chairman of the board of directors, is still trying to find out why the house was raided. Although the police admit a raid took place, Captain Donald Randle of the 3rd District's community relations division refuses to give a reason, saying only that the incident is "under investigation."

MT. PLEASANT

FREE art classes are now being offered to Mt. Pleasant residents at the Operation Heritage Arts Center at 3616 1/2 14th St, NW. The arts center is open Wednesday through Saturday. Classes are arranged in 6-week groupings and are taught by artists, dancers and craftsmen living in the community. The classes are free, but participants are asked to make donations for supplies and materials. For information call 829-0751 or Ms. Powell at 626-5424. The center is operated by Operation Heritage and the DC Department of Recreation.

FAR SE

SUBWAY planners are considering the feasibility of rerouting the Metro line through Anacostia. Currently the line crosses into Prince George's County at Suitland. Deputy Mayor Watts recommends rerouting along Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue and entering Maryland at Oxon Hill.



HARD TIMES

JAMES RIDGEWAY

Rebuilding the city

BIG corporations which once made profits by ripping up natural resources now find they can make more money by using their immense landholdings for realty developments. In the District, for instance, urban planning was once the province of certain select garbage kings, Baltimore Mafioso and Southern politicians. Now the city is being redesigned and rebuilt at the direction of high class businessmen from Chicago, Pittsburgh and New York. Inland Steel directors fly in and out to inspect progress on schemes for developing the Georgetown waterfront, which Inland Steel pretty much owns. In other parts of the capital city, Westinghouse builds a new town in a rundown neighborhood while ITT-Hartford Insurance gets ready to construct an apartment city in an old, established residential section.

In the suburbs around Washington, Boise Cascade is fighting it out with local Virginia zoning boards for permission to build a new town amidst horse farms. Gulf Oil, which took over Reston, Virginia when that new town was floundering, is now so enthusiastic about real estate that it has created a special division to make new towns all over the nation. In Maryland US Steel builds a resort community.

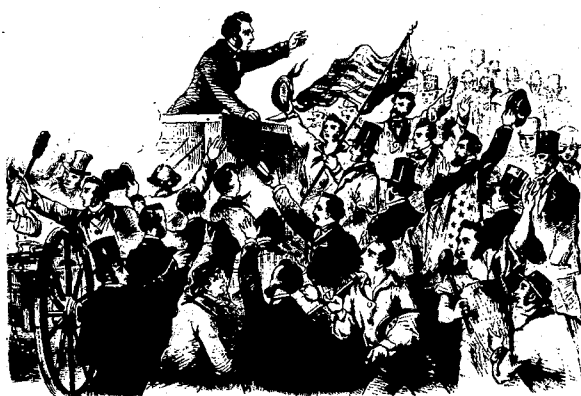
Most of the big oil companies now are in real estate. Jersey Standard and Shell both have garish complexes at Houston. California Standard and Texaco are setting up others in southern California. Mobil has a world wide realty arm based in Canada. The company's biggest project to date is a 100-building complex in Hong Kong where 70,000 people will live.

Sizeable tracts of New England land, long held by paper and lumber companies, are being developed. Firms which once cut down timber for paper or wood products now find they can take advantage of tax laws which lead to increased profits through real estate development. Land development also gets ecologists off their backs, at least for the time being.

The pill & blacks

BIRTH control pills may be dangerous to large numbers of black women. Frances Lang, in Ramparts, reports little-noticed studies by doctors which indicate that women with sickle cell anemia or the sickle cell trait may develop blood clots if they take oral contraceptives. Most people who have the sickle cell disease are black. Sickle cell anemia is a blood disorder resulting from an abnormality in the structure of red blood cells which causes blood clotting. Individuals with sickle cell trait have some normal red blood cells and some which sickle and cause clots when the body's oxygen supply is low. A 1967 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association describes two patients with sickle cell disease who developed clots in their lungs after use of contraceptives. In the April, 1972, issues of Connecticut Medicine, Dr. Jonathan Greenwald tells of a patient with the sickle cell trait who suffered a stroke after taking birth control pills. While many doctors take care not to prescribe birth control pills to women with actual sickle cell disease, few give the simple test to tell whether a woman has the sickle cell trait. The FDA requires no warning in the labelling of birth control pills. Although 40 percent of people served by the OEO family planning programs are black, few of the clinics give a test for sickle cell trait.

(Please turn to next page)



APPLE PIE

AN AMERICAN REPORT

The Shales Report on Violence in Everything

THOMAS SHALES

I LOVE violence on television and in the movies. It's fun. Violence is movement. It is crystallized inertia. I like to see bad guys get theirs in the end, or wherever. I think "The Untouchables" was a pretty good TV show and bloody, bloody "El Topo" was a dandy religious movie. I do not think that violence on TV is especially alarming. There isn't enough of it, though. They took out most of the violence a few years ago, during that national exorcism of post-assassination guilt. TV, always plastically placid, has grown more so ever since. Let's face it, the hacks who write the adventure shows need violence to punch them up. They don't have the time and probably not the talent to involve us intellectually, so they have to for visceral appeasement. POW! That does it pretty good. This is, of course, stylized violence. It has become a liberal cliché to say that falsely stylized violence has shattered our violence-sensitivity so that we no longer associate say, a punch in the kisser with pain to the punchee. A nice theory. It sounds good. If anybody can prove it, I'll do a somersault.

No, no, there's no scientific data and what if there were? What's the alternative? Well, there are two as I see it: First, make the violence on TV real. When somebody gets a bop on the noggin, show us the crack in the skull and the tremendous amount of blood that the body can expell over even the simplest wound, if the right arteries or veins or such-and-such are involved. This would make TV pretty hard to watch, not that it isn't already. And what would it accomplish? Would this really sicken us all to the display of violence so that we would never again so much as swat a fly? I don't think so. We would go right on clobbering one another. Most of the people who do the clobbering do it for money and not pleasure, I think it is safe to say, and they may be well aware of the physiological effects on the well-placed clobber. I'm not at all convinced that if TV depicted violence as it really is that the farmer in the midwest wouldn't go nutty and exterminate his family anyway, or that what's-his-name wouldn't go up into a tower and snipe off a few passers-by anyway, or that Nixon wouldn't continue the bombing and refuse to end the war anyway.

Alternative two: No more violence of any kind on television, lest little brother see it and learn from it how to assault little sister. This is the Clockwork Orange concept. It sees television as being at best the national pacifier. It sees TV as something that should be used to us better. Better Americans, better people, better reciters of the god-damned old alphabet. Better at yoga and better cooks. Such views are often advanced by liberals or various varieties of dissidents. I don't know why they can't see the

Big Brotherism inherent in the concept. TV should be "used," eh? And who does the using? And who gets used? Who are all these better folks who know how to make the rest of us grow in stature and worth? Every once in awhile, Nick Johnson, whom I elaborately admire, gives me the creeps. I envision what I infer to be his ideal--a coast-to-coast national personal universalizing betterness machine, pumping goodness and virtue and intelligence into us throughout the day and night. All we have to do is sit there and soak it up. If we are going to go that far, why don't we add subliminal messages that bleep out, DON'T HURT, DON'T KILL, DON'T HIT YOUR SISTER, LIE STILL, SHUT UP, and SAY YOUR PRAYERS AT BEDTIME!

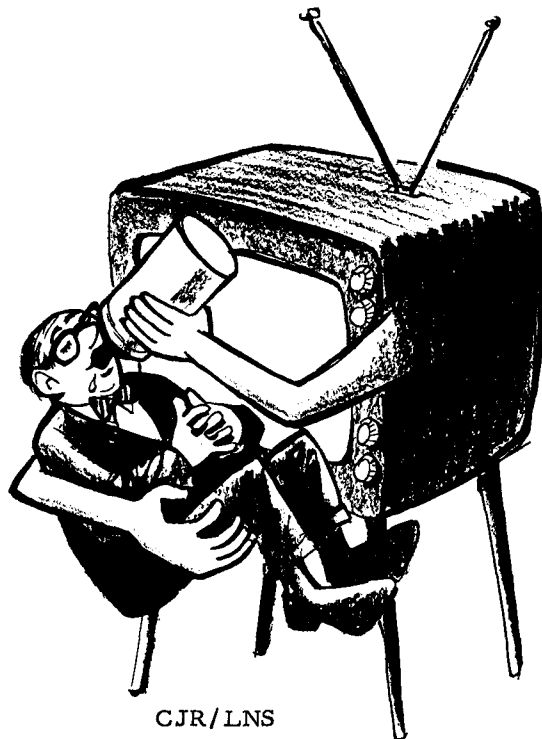
Of course, I have taken this to an extreme to make a point. That's something we wicked old writers love to do. But frankly, the fact that the Surgeon General's report on TV and violence was an industry-sanctioned con job doesn't distress me. (It ought to be expected in corporate America anyway). Whatever its findings might have been, the fact remains that kids love violence. When I was a kid, if we would have had a choice, between a shoot-em-up and that mealy-mouthed goody-goody Mister Rogers, it wouldn't have taken a split second to go for the rough stuff. Kids like primitives, the easiest possible resolution. What's easier than a bullet to the heart of the brute who kicked Rin-Tin-Tin. Come on now--we kids knew it wasn't a real bullet. We knew it wasn't a real anything. And, as has recently been pointed out, we knew that Captain Spaceo was full of shit when he rhapsodized over Crinkly Crunchies. We didn't believe any of it. And we didn't need TV to show us how to hit our sisters (or vice versa). It came naturally.

As for movies, I'm more concerned about the violence done to them than in them. CBS screened Ben-Hur again this week. First, they whacked off the nativity. Who needs that? It only supplies half the conceptual frame for the story. When the men rowing the battle ship realize they are going down, they struggle frantically to get loose from the chains around their ankles. In the film, we saw the ankles bleed from these attempts to escape--but not on CBS. So the desperation had to be more or less guessed. And Judah Ben-Hur, who has said earlier he does not believe in violence, is later threatened with loss of home and family and, trying to escape imprisonment, kills a guard. But not on CBS. That resort to violence said something about the character and the fact that circumstances can render theories irrelevant. But not on you-know-where. The Cowardly Broadcasting System.

I agree that violence in cartoons ought to go. Some of it is ghoulish and morbid. Since the cartoons are so cheaply made that they have no

sense of movement anyway, why bother to sketchily imply a lot of bashings and throttlings? But again, the worst thing about these loathsome cartoons is not the violence in them. It is that they are cheap, tacky and unimaginative. The TV executive mentality always held that it was either the cheap cartoons or the deadly dull goody two-shoes stuff or nothing. "Sesame Street," although much about it seems rather Clockwork Orangey and diabolical, proved that theory wrong. Still, it merely pumps letters and numbers and some brotherhood jazz into a kid's head. It doesn't widen many kiddies' vistas. But then, I guess the best possible children's TV show would be the one in which Uncle Teddy appeared in a cloud of blue smoke and said, "Hey there kids, turn off the goddamn TV set and get out of the house." Even if only to fight with one another, the kid would be better off away from the stultifying tube.

Right now movie critics are embroiled in a great soulsearching orgy about violence in movies. Andrew Sarris finds much of this caterwauling inconsistent (in last week's Village Voice) and makes some good points. Stanley Kauffmann says with some simple wisdom (in The New Republic): "The way to solve the Violence Problem in films is to make violent films well." Right on. But other critics have been overcome with an attack of the galloping nobles--the worst thing a critic can imagine is that destiny has appointed him to protect the audience. Pauline Kael says that the new movies are "suck-



CJR/LNS

ing up to the thugs" and cites "Clockwork Orange" as chief sucker. Ironically, she thinks a movie about dehumanization will dehumanize the audience. Of course, it is a dehumanized movie. But of course, of course, it is a dehumanized world. Well, which came first, the dehumanization or the dehumanizers? Jesus, I don't know.

But moralistic fanaticism may be more dangerous, in its way, than wayward violence on the screen--big screen or small. It plays into the hands of the bluenoses, the supercilious, the rightwing zealots, the sanctimonious crackpots like Morality in Media.

The universe began with a big bang, we are told, and it's been pretty violent ever since. America began with, said a poet, "a shot heard 'round the world," and the shooting hasn't stopped. Violence is indeed as American as frozen apple pie. We've got to contain that reckless tendency, that's for sure. But to strike out at the media reflections of that tendency is to mistake the symptoms for the cause. Unctuous prattle only arms the censors and the repressors and the behavioral dictators. If a film says that we all share a basic animalism and we think it's just a fiendish pandering to the 'thugs' among us, that's moralistic elitism and a bad case of missing, in fact ducking, the point.

Real violence, of course, is something else. It is harrowing and threatening. I remember walking down a city street one day and seeing two winos arguing near a cement stairway. One of them gave the other a resounding slap in the face--not a punch, just a slap. But the noise it made! The humiliation to the man slapped! It made me silently crave the vicarious aggression of a Hollywood brawl. Let us leave the fabricated violence alone, so at least there will always be a viable alternative to the actual thing.

HARD TIMES CONT'D

THE President needs to neutralise the health issue before it backfires on him in the campaign. That's why he recently proposed to end payments by elderly persons to the scandal-ridden medicare program.

Unfortunately, Nixon is not really proposing to stop medicare payments at all, just shift them around. He wants to pay for the inflated program from the social security trust fund, the big money pot used to pay general social security benefits. By hooking medicare to the trust fund, the President will ensure that social security benefits won't go up.

Attacks on health insurance in general are picking up. Senator Kennedy's forces are preparing a major campaign to beat Russell Long's pro-insurance industry bill for catastrophic insurance when that comes to the floor later this spring. Senator Hart's antitrust subcommittee is investigating (sweetheart) deals between supposedly competitive non-profit Blue Cross plans and private insurance companies. California Congressman Jerome Waldie recently discovered non-profit Blue Cross-Blue Shield systems pay themselves a self-described annual "profit" of \$5 million for running the federal employees health insurance programs.

DEATH IN THE MINES: Progress on coal mine safety reform is more discouraging than ever. Twenty men were killed in coal mines this year, up to February 7. That's about one death every other day in the world's most dangerous industry. Our fatality rate is two, three times that of European countries, including Russia where miners work thousands of feet below the earth's surface. Last year 181 men died in the US coal mines; in 1970 it was 258, in 1969, 203 men. Mine owners, now mostly big oil companies, simply won't spend the money to change mining techniques and hence improve safe work conditions. In the face of growing demand for coal by electric utilities, they work the men harder, ask them to take more of a risk.

IN a little noticed strike in Namibia, the South African government had to send in troops to stop a strike by black workers against Tsumeb

Mining Co., controlled by American Metal Climax and Newmont Mining. People in Namibia, formerly South West Africa, are involved in an independence move to get rid of South African control, ruled illegal by the World Court. Since mid-December, 15 thousand workers have been out on strike, crippling mines, factories, farms and services in the territory. Then representatives of Newmont arrived along with South

African troops, and the strike was supposedly settled. But nobody went back to work. It's not hard to see why. Strikers were not represented in reaching the "settlement." Officials at the Tsumeb Corporation, which employs 5,000 workers, say the strike won't result in increased pay. In 1970 Tsumeb earned \$15 million in profits for its US owners. It pays its average African worker \$28 per month.



BY ROBERT WOLF

THROUGH State Department channels, impenetrable three-pound plastic bullet-proof vests are being supplied to politicians in client states of the U.S., such as Marcos of the Philippines, Park of South Korea and Thieu of South Vietnam. Their bodyguards are trained in the U.S., too.

A CIA AGENT who quit after 14 years told a reporter that the agency has a large depot in the Midwest where "all kinds" of military equipment is stored, many of the weapons unmarked. "Over the years, they have bought everything they can get their hands on, all over the world, that is untraceable -- to prepare for the contingency that they might want to ship arms."

FOR two years and two months, a 50-year-old Denver man lived with a transplanted heart, then died of cancer. In Australia, a 50-year-old hiker survived six days on a snow-covered mountain, until a rescue helicopter located

him. While waving to the crew, he fell into a ravine and died.

A MERCHANTS' anti-shoplifting seminar, sponsored by New York State, revealed two things that store owners most fear in busting boosters: the possibility of a false-arrest suit, and time spent in court. Legal advisors told the merchants that clerks can detain a shopper if they reasonably suspect he stole something; but they'd best wait until the police arrive to effect a search. The merchant can avoid a court hassle, the State spokesman said: "Get a written confession from the shoplifter the first time he is caught, then tell him the next time he is caught he'll be prosecuted" for one or both crimes. The store owners were assured that only about 5-10% of the suspects ever plead innocent, and those that do rarely ask for the jury trial they're entitled to.

EVERY TWO HOURS, there's a bombing in the U.S., and 90% of the nation's major corporations have been threatened, an independent research organization has reported. Bombings since 1960 have risen out of all proportion to the crime rate generally. And today's bomber, the report says, "is better educated, builds substantially more sophisticated devices and is often more difficult to detect and apprehend." The Treasury Department estimates that 65% of bombers are not caught.

—AFS

SEEDS OF ANGUISH CONT'D

LIFE IN THE JAIL

1. Physical Structure

From the outside, the jail looks like a badly-designed fortress. It is, in the words of the Jail's own publication, "indeed a Washington landmark." It was built in 1872 and opened in late 1875. It stands at 200-19th Street, S. E., adjacent to D. C. General Hospital and near Robert F. Kennedy Stadium.

It is a four-story complex of brick and sandstone, containing about 2.5 million cubic feet of space. Inside, according to the Department of Corrections, are two maximum security cell-blocks, two medium security cell-blocks, a two-floor dormitory, a "Culinary Unit," a 37-bed hospital, a "dental suite," and a laundry. There are about 900 doors, controlled by 600 locks. Says the Jail's informational manual:

Structurally the Jail has remained about as it was approximately twenty-five years ago. Numerous (sic) improvements, however, such as air conditioning in some units, the renovation of several office, (sic) the installation of the sprinkling system, improved inmate visiting facilities and changes to strengthen security have occurred over the years. The D. C. Jail under the direction of its nineteenth superintendent continues, as it has for nearly a century, to serve the Nation's Capital as a unique institution.

The inmates might argue about what constitutes uniqueness, but certainly everyone would agree that the Jail's age qualifies it for some sort of distinction. According to the 1970 National Jail Census, only 5.5 percent of all jail cells in the nation are more than 100 years old, and another 6.6 percent are between 76 and 100 years old. Added to the age of the building is the fact of overcrowding. There are 1,000 to 1,200 inmates now in a structure that is large enough to hold perhaps half that many.

2. Intake

Upon admission, says the Jail, inmates are placed in a "holding cage" to await their processing. Telephone calls may be made at this point. Commitment papers are rounded up; prisoners are fingerprinted and issued numbers. "Inmates in the holding cages are briefed on the intake procedure and are then ready to be processed at the search table," says the Jail. At the search table, inmates' clothing, personal property and money are sorted out and sent into storage. Then "The Inmate is given a body search and moves on for body cleansing and serological test." He receives clothing, sheets, and a towel. A photograph is taken and then "he is ready for housing according to charge, bond and general classification."

Within 24 hours after commitment to the Jail, says the manual:

... the new admissions are interviewed by a staff member ... and an intake summary is completed ... This summary becomes the stem basis of a more elaborate caseworker's analysis at the institution which is designated for service of sentence. At the time of the interview the staff member handles any emergency which may have arisen as a result of the Inmate's removal from the community and may make essential telephone contacts with the inmate's family, bondsman, and/or attorney.

The manual describes counselling of the new inmates:

The counseling function at the D. C. Jail by nature of its operation as a holding facility, with few exceptions is that of an immediate short-term problem solving nature aimed at alleviating some of the anxieties brought about by the individual's loss of freedom and subsequent problems related thereto, such as assistance to both the Inmate and his family in his transition from the free community to confinement. The staff attempts to fulfill the role of liaison between the man committed to the Jail and his family and community.

Elsewhere, in its "Inmate Information Bulletins," the Jail advises inmates that the Classification and Parole Unit exists:

to help you in your transition from the free community to that of incarcerated status and, whenever possible, to assist you in your re-entry into the free community. This is done by assisting in making contacts with bondsmen, attorneys, families, employees, welfare agencies and the courts. Within 24 hours of admission to the Jail a representative of the Classification and Parole Unit will determine the services this unit can offer in the solution of problems resulting from removal from the free community. The Classification and Parole Unit staff will assist in any way possible during incarceration at the Jail.

So much for the picture painted by the Jail. In actuality, however, very little of this happens.

An inmate can make a telephone call from the "holding cage" if he has the correct change and if he can successfully

compete with fifty or seventy-five other men for one of the four telephones.

Search

Being "processed at the search table" and getting a "body search" is a degrading affair, perhaps the prisoner's first solid evidence of the nature of his captivity. A prisoner must remove all his clothes and stand for a while under the scrutiny of a gallery of other prisoners, trustees and guards who presumably look him over for weapons and narcotics, but who also make frequent comments on his sexual organs. "It's really funny when a bunch of queers comes in," said an official of The Department of Corrections.

Information

Of the 90 inmates questioned, only two reported receiving a copy of the Jail's regulations. Almost all the others said they were told nothing about the rules. Two said they noticed later on, that some rules were posted in some parts of the Jail but that no one had called them to their attention. A few said they were given some information verbally: One man was told that he would be sent to "the hole" if he abused the guards; one was told the hour for lights-out; several were told that their mail would be censored; one was told that anything he told his cellmate might be used against him; a few were told that their attorneys could visit them.

Medical Screening

Initial medical screening of the new inmates seems to be carried out on a hit-or-miss basis.

Of the ninety men questioned, only a dozen prisoners said they had received complete medical examinations upon entering the Jail. A few said they received examinations within a week or so; some said they were given blood or urine tests; most said they were asked only general questions about their health. Seventeen of the inmates said they received no medical screening whatsoever. Others said they got examinations at odd intervals.

One inmate told guards at the Jail upon his admission that he was suffering from hepatitis. He also told an MTA—Medical Technical Assistant—the nonprofessional Jail aide similar to a military medic, who performs much of the medical screening at the facility. The MTA, said the inmate, concluded that there was nothing wrong with him. It was not

until three weeks later that the inmate, whose skin and eyes had turned yellow, was permitted to see a doctor. The inmate quoted the doctor as saying he would have died if he had come in any later.

Drug Screening

Newly-arrived inmates who are suffering from drug addiction or withdrawal symptoms are treated in a variety of ways by the Jail. Apparently, the rule is that if an inmate was participating in a methadone treatment program before his incarceration, the treatment will be continued in the Jail. But inmates not on methadone say they may not receive it in the Jail even if they ask for it. The inmates who said they were in the midst of withdrawal when entering the Jail reported the following experiences:

o One was kept in quarantine for several days. One was sent to D. C. General on the day he entered. Several received methadone. Several received nothing.

o One was treated with a tranquilizer, Librium and aspirin. One requested methadone and received aspirin. One concealed the fact that he was undergoing withdrawal, but collapsed six hours later and was taken to the hospital and given methadone there.

o One informed the Jail that he was taking part in a methadone program and that he wanted to continue. He was told that the Jail could not furnish the synthetic drug until a check was made with the administrators of his withdrawal program on the outside. After eleven months, the inmate still had not received a reply.

Counselling

As for the efforts by the Jail staff to interview and classify the inmates upon their admission—to smooth their transition from free men to prisoners, to help with emergencies left behind in the outside world, and to alleviate their tensions and anxieties—these efforts described in the Jail's official literature are largely fictional. The Interim Report states:

It is significant that virtually none of the witnesses interviewed can remember talking with any representative of the classification and parole unit or with any other staff member acting in a similar capacity. Certainly, it seems clear that virtually no counseling services of any kind are offered by the correctional staff. The only exceptions would be for those inmates who consult one of the Jail's two full-time clergymen ... In any event, it is clear that no member of the Jail staff even attempts to perform such a function on a regular basis.

Of the inmates and former inmates questioned, all but twelve reported receiving no interview at all.



3. Jail Official's View on Prisoners

Most of the prisoners, as previously noted, are not serving time at all, but are awaiting trial or sentencing. As the Jail booklet explains:

The Jail serves primarily as a holding institution for persons charged with committing an offense in the District of Columbia and those sentenced in the District of Columbia Courts and awaiting transfer to other institutions for service of sentences imposed. It also houses Federal, State and Municipal prisoners in transit. Only a cadre of approximately thirty sentenced inmates is held at the Jail for essential work details.

Unfortunately for those inmates who are not convicted of anything, the quality of their life is vastly inferior to that of those who are convicted. As will be shown later, the convicts receive better treatment in almost all respects—from the number of times per week they may take showers to their ability to watch television, lift weights and shoot pool—than those who are presumed innocent.

Charles Rodgers, the Corrections Department's Deputy Director for Operations and the former Superintendent of the Jail, acknowledges that the treatment is unequal. "There is a difference," he told the ACLU investigator in an interview. "If you're a dangerous individual, as indicated by the crime you've committed, you shouldn't get the same as somebody else who's not dangerous." Mr. Rodgers explained that there are some men locked up in the Jail who "have bilked the government out of millions of dollars; men who were millionaires before they came in here. These persons should not be locked up as tight as the persons who would make trouble," he said. The "persons who would make trouble," in his view, included those who were charged with crimes of violence.

The director was asked, though, how he could assume the degree of a man's dangerousness when the man had not been convicted of anything. He answered without hesitation: "We know that a crime has been committed and that the man, when he comes in here, has had a hearing, and that the hearing has decided that it's likely that he committed a crime."

4. Cell Assignments

A good deal of the Jail's discrimination is carried out by housing assignment. The Jail booklet states:

Inmates of the D. C. Jail are housed according to a four step plan. Those who are classified as unsuited for housing with the general population are placed in the Maximum Security Unit where privileges are restricted. The second housing classification is the general population housed in the two maximum security cell blocks. The dormitories contain those inmates in the third housing classification and the fourth group is housed in cell block three and consist of inmates assigned to work details at the Jail. Inmates, as they demonstrate capabilities and potentiality for improvement, may be moved from one housing facility to another.

The Jail makes much of its prisoners' alleged ability to improve their lot by improving their behavior. According to the Jail booklet, one of the rewards is religious freedom! "As inmates improve, privileges and opportunity for religious, educational, recreational and social activities increase. On the other hand, when inmates deteriorate in attitude and behavior, they are subject to reverse action."

From the interviews with the 90 prisoners questioned here, it would appear that the man who has been charged with a crime but not yet tried is likely to be thrown into the Jail's worst cellblocks, behavior or no behavior. Of those inmates questioned who were in Jail for pretrial detention, 78% were housed in Cellblocks 1 and 2, which are the most crowded and filthy and which allow fewer inmate privileges. The remainder were housed in cellblocks 3 and 4 and the dormitory where living conditions are better.

5. Physical Description of the Cells

The physical differences between life in the maximum security cellblocks and the more privileged cells and dormitories are great. The common denominator, mentioned by virtually all the prisoners questioned, is the presence of rodents and roaches.

A composite of prisoner descriptions of their environment goes this way: Those in cellblocks 3 and 4 and in the dormitories are more likely to have windows and adequate ventilation, although in many cases the windows are broken and allow winter air to pour in. A prisoner may be alone in a 6 x 8 foot cell with a small window, or with one roommate in a cell approximately 10 x 12. Cleaning materials are supplied frequently. A Corrections Department official described these cells as "more like the cells in a monastery," and he was correct. There is just enough room in them for one prisoner to maintain some degree of dignity, and, most importantly, ordinarily the doors to the corridor are unlocked.

Those in cellblocks 1 and 2 are confined with one roommate in cells 6 x 8 feet. The bunks, toilet and stool take

up more than half the floor space. Each man, then, has something less than 12 square feet of floor space, and he stays in that cell perhaps 22 hours of each day.

The only windows are in the walls of the immense cellblocks themselves, and some of them are broken, allowing cold air in in the winter. In the summer, inmates have recorded temperatures up to 107 degrees. There are constant, pervasive odors, which the prisoners attribute to unwashed human bodies, urine smells from the faulty sewage system, and the odors of dead rats in the walls.

Although the men clean their own cells and indicate a willingness to make their surroundings as sanitary as possible, success is unlikely. Cleaning materials are handed out only infrequently and, as one inmate put it, by the time a mop and pail of water get to the end of a tier of cells they are quite dirty. Sometimes there is no toilet paper in the maximum security cells. The mattresses are rotting, sometimes not present at all.

One resident of Cellblock 1 described his living conditions this way: He shares his small cell with one roommate. The inmates' personal items—toiletries, clothes, shoes and similar items—are stored on the floor, under the double-decker bunks. In addition to the bunks, there is a sink, a toilet, a stool, and a writing desk which is attached to the wall. Lights come on at 5:30 a.m. and are turned off at 10 or 11 p.m. From 5:30 to 7 a.m. the inmates may control the light in their cells with a switch.

The inmate reported that he and his cellmate try to keep the cell clean, but that roaches, mice, spiders and ants are constantly present. Sometimes the Jail staff makes available a pest spray of U. S. Army origin, but when it is used, the inmates get dizzy. Insects and rodents sometimes crawl out of the drains. Bedding and towels are changed once a week. The ventilation is poor. Inmates are supposed to receive one blanket, but often they are given an additional one upon request. The inmate and his roommate are allowed to shower three times a week. At the time of his interview, this prisoner had been in Cellblock 1 of the D. C. Jail for fourteen months awaiting trial.

6. Idleness

Not only is it incorrect to state that the majority of the prisoners are serving time, since they have not been convicted of anything; the expression is incorrect in another way. "Serving time" implies doing something, and the ACLU investigation of the D. C. Jail found that one of the more grim aspects of life there was the inmates had little or nothing to do.

Once again, the Jail paints a picture quite different from the ACLU investigators and the prisoners. Here is what the official Jail booklet has to say on the subjects of exercise and recreation:

Inmates from all housing units are permitted in the outdoor yards for scheduled recreation periods under the supervision of the Recreation Specialist and correctional personnel . . . Outside recreation for the general population is scheduled on a rotating basis for all general population housing units whenever the weather permits. This type of recreation is of course restricted during the winter months and periods of inclement weather . . . Indoor recreation for inmates assigned to the Jail as cadremen consist of pool, ping-pong, weight lifting, cards, checkers, chess, etc. . . Inside recreation privileges in the felony cell blocks are limited to table games, cards, checkers, chess, dominoes and sometimes ping-pong. Television viewing has been permitted. Recorded and radio music from a controlled center is heard in the cell blocks.

Most of the prisoners questioned who were housed in the maximum security cellblocks reported that they were allowed from thirty to sixty minutes for recreation and exercise a day, weather permitting. A few men said they were allowed to exercise only three times a week. One man, who is confined to a special section of the Jail for people whom the staff has classified as homosexuals, said that his section is allowed to exercise only twice a week for twenty minutes each time.

Such recreational devices as pool tables, and weights do exist for the cadremen at the Jail. But maximum security prisoners report that even table games are denied them. Television viewing may be permitted in the maximum security areas, but not in much of it; what TV sets as there are may be seen by only a small portion of the inmates on a cellblock. Radio and recorded music exist, but several inmates complained that it is erratic, often broken down, and frequently inaudible.

7. Food

The quality of food is always a complaint in an institution where people of diverse backgrounds and tastes are thrown together and told they must take it or leave it, and the D. C. Jail is no exception to this. But the great majority of the inmates questioned maintained that their problem goes beyond the issue of taste into the question of sanitation.

The inmates maintain, almost to a man, that the food is ill-prepared, served carelessly, and furthermore that roaches

and rodents run through it, and that the trays and eating utensils are encrusted with filth. There may be electrically heated carts, they say, but the carts are often not plugged in. And inmates who are not on the privileged details report being allowed an average of only 15 to 20 minutes to eat each meal.

Many prisoners said they had seen vermin in the dining areas. One said he saw mice in the oatmeal one day and that the mice were removed and the oatmeal sent on to the tables. Another said the ham, when it is served, often comes in various "colors." Some inmates who work in the kitchen say rodents, roaches and other bugs are present constantly.

Several prisoners complained that they had requested special foods either for medical or religious reasons and were told that these were not available.

8. Bathing and Clothing

In an overcrowded maximum security facility such as the D. C. Jail, it is obvious that personal hygiene and sanitation are extremely important. The Jail notes that "bathing facilities . . . are available" for the inmates, and that the Jail laundry "performs an exceptionally fine and valuable service for the Jail" and jail-related facilities.

Bathing facilities may be available, but the prisoners are not allowed to use them as much as they want or need to. Most inmates in the maximum security cellblocks reported that they were allowed to shower about three times a week. Some men said the frequency was twice a week, and several said that bathing, like so much in the Jail, was at the discretion of the guards. One man said he was allowed to shower only once a week.

Men on detail, and those living in the more privileged cellblocks and dormitories, reported that they were allowed to shower and shave almost whenever they wanted to.

In the maximum security areas, men said bedding, towels and clothing were in short supply. Sometimes a man is issued half a towel per week, some said. (Men on detail say they get towels twice a week.) A change of clothing and bedding is issued once a week, but the men said sometimes the clothing comes back still dirty and often the sheets are torn and sometimes there is no bedding at all. Mattresses and blankets, said the men, are cleaned once a year.

The men said they were allowed to shave sometime once a day, sometimes twice a week. A number of men use the same razor, so by the time it gets to the end of the line, it is not very effective, not to mention unsanitary. The men wash their underwear while they are taking showers. Homosexuals, it was reported, are allowed to bathe less frequently than other inmates. And one man, a convict, said he spent his first 23 days in the Jail without being allowed to change his clothes.

9. Visiting and Mail

The Jail maintains, and some of the more experienced prisoners agree, that restrictions on visiting and correspondence have been eased in recent years. The rules are that each inmate may have two one-half hour social visits per week, limited to persons on the "approved visiting list." Children may visit prisoners. "Attorneys, Law Enforcement Agents, Social Workers and Clergymen visits for business purposes will be held during regular weekly visiting hours," says the Jail. As for correspondence:

Inmates may write to anyone with whom they wish to correspond. Letters, however, are subject to minimum censorship, may not contain anything that violates security regulations, must indicate inmate's housing unit and bear his signature and number . . . Inmates receive all correspondence addressed to them unless it is found to contain contraband or information which violates security regulations . . . The use of drawings, codes or symbols is not permitted. Inmates may not discuss Institutional affairs, nor, may the name of any member of the Personnel, except that of the Superintendent be used.

Despite the Jail's official use of the word "censorship," Mr. Rodgers said that was not the right word. "We don't censor mail to anybody," he said in an interview with the ACLU investigator. "Checking" and "censoring" are two different things. We only check to see that there's no narcotics or something in the mail." Mr. Rodgers said that LSD had been found under postage stamps and narcotics had been secreted between a Polaroid photograph and its cardboard mount. If it were not for the narcotics problem, he said, the Jail could dispense with "checking" any ordinary mail.

Outgoing inmate correspondence is limited to three letters a day. Indigent prisoners, says the Jail, are entitled to free writing material and stamps for three letters a week.

Here, again, the inmates' version of how the rules are enforced is at variance with the Jail's explanations. Some prisoners said they were informed when admitted to the Jail that their mail would be censored and that they had a right to an attorney.

o An inmate said he was told not to write to outsiders about conditions at the Jail, not to mention the name of another inmate, and not to discuss black militancy. Another, a pretrial detainee for eight months, said he had written a friend about a beating that had occurred at the Jail. Jail officials told him that if he did something like that again, he'd be put in "the hole." On another occasion, this inmate said, he wrote a letter to his attorney about conditions in the Jail and the letter was returned to him, unsent.

o A prisoner said the jail provided stamps for only one letter a week, not three, for indigent inmates.

MEDICAL CARE

The most frequently-mentioned complaints from the prisoners were about medical care. Not only is the medical condition of the inmates largely ignored when they enter the Jail; it continues to be ignored throughout their stay.

The Jail booklet says:

The Medical Staff of the D. C. Jail under the Senior Medical Officer provides medical services for the jail primarily and also diagnostic definitive treatment of the more serious medical problems of the inmates of the Department of Corrections. In addition to the Senior Medical Officer, the medical staff consist of one full time and two part time physicians, one part time dentist, a head nurse, two additional nurses and three medical technicians, a laboratory medical technician and an X-Ray technician. Inmates serve as clerks, orderlies and maintenance personnel under instructive supervision. The Jail Hospital contains thirty-seven beds, has a surgical suite, isolation unit, a tuberculosis unit, an X-Ray room, medical record storage, a drug dispensary, and offices for physicians and nurses.

The following services are provided for the Jail population by the Medical Staff . . . Emergency medical attention from the onset of incarceration . . . Daily sick call on the basis of alternate days for the various cell blocks and dormitories . . . Hospitalization of the seriously ill patients in the D. C. General Hospital . . . Twenty-four hour nursing service and daily rounds by physicians . . . Dental care for all inmates such as providing dental plates and bridges . . . Ophthalmoscopic examination and the issuance of corrective glasses. . .

The inmates' recollections of their medical woes show a pattern of continuing neglect. The case of the prisoner who entered the jail with hepatitis and said he was ignored for three weeks, has already been noted. Here are other examples reported by the prisoners:

o One man entered the Jail with a neck injury suffered in an automobile accident. It took more than two weeks for him to see a Jail doctor.

o One man had pneumonia and waited two days to get into the Jail hospital. Another pneumonia victim was treated only with aspirin until he got into D. C. General Hospital, where he described his treatment as adequate.

o An inmate cut his hand in a kitchen accident. Three and a half hours later a doctor treated the cut with salve and a bandage. The wound bled for one and a half days before it received stitches.

o An inmate who was a polio victim, and who still suffered from the effects of the disease, saw a doctor, but was not allowed to take the pain-killing medicine he had been taking on the outside. It took him six months to get into D. C. General.

o One man found blood in his excrement. It took him six months to get a physical examination.

o Inmates with eye problems reported similar neglect. One said he waited a month to see an eye doctor. Another managed to get a prescription for eyeglasses, but five months later still had not received the glasses. One inmate was told he could not get glasses until he had been sentenced. An inmate with an eye injury sought help, but the MTA refused to put him on sick call. Another man with eye troubles has waited eleven months without seeing a doctor.

Mentally Ill Prisoners

Corrections officials maintain that there are no facilities at the Jail for treating or holding prisoners who are considered mentally ill. But there are. The ACLU investigator on a tour of the Jail hospital saw wards and small rooms in which prisoners were secured to their beds by chains.

He asked the nurse who was accompanying him why it was necessary to chain the men. She explained that the men were undergoing "a period of rest." She added: "We don't call them 'chains.' We call them 'restraints'."

But, said the ACLU man, the devices were clearly chains. The nurse replied: "We used to use leather straps, you know, but the men broke through them just like string."

In one of the wards, a prisoner who was not chained came to the window opening into the corridor. He pointed to a large area of clotted blood and stitches on the top of his head. Guards had beaten him, he said, after they accused

him of taking part in a cellblock disturbance a week before. He said simply: "They are trying to make me lose my mind." Then: "I need help, man. I need help."

Other cases of keeping mentally ill persons in chains have surfaced in the past. In April, 1970, for example, before this study was undertaken, ACLU lawyers discovered that a mentally ill inmate had been manacled and placed in an isolation cell for more than nine months, and that the Jail had denied he was a prisoner there.

DISCIPLINE

The force that makes the Jail run at all, of course, is discipline: the inmate's knowledge or suspicions about what will happen to him if he breaks the rules (even if he has never received a clear understanding of what the rules are). Inextricably bound up in the question of discipline are two important factors: the quality of the staff and guards; and "the hole." "The hole" is the ultimate form of punishment which exists at nearly all penal institutions and which is the most degrading and (the staff hopes) the most feared by the inmates.

The Staff

Not surprisingly, the D. C. Jail has good things to say about the quality of the staff. Correctional training is "continuous;" new officers attend sixty hours of lectures on such topics as "security," "inmate handling," and "personnel relations."

Supplementing this picture of professionalism is the fact that, according to the 1970 National Jail Census, the D. C. Corrections personnel were the highest paid in the nation. In addition, the Jail's ratio of 3.4 inmates per full-time employee is the fourth lowest in the nation. But, as the Interim Report stated:

One would think that since the D. C. Jail staff is the best-paid jail staff in the country (by far), it would attract, relatively speaking, topflight people. Moreover, to confirm this impression, all the correctional staff are Civil Service employees, which ought to guarantee some minimal level of quality, at least. However, startling as it may seem, there are virtually no qualifications for the post of correctional officer at the D. C. Jail.

A 1971 brochure published by the Department of Corrections says only this about the requirements for new correctional officers: "QUALIFICATIONS: Three and one half years of leadership or counseling experience is required for entry level of GS-6 (\$7,985)."

Many prisoners felt the guards' attitudes were "so-so," "okay," "live and let live" and "meeting you half way." Others called the guards "negative" in their attitudes; they said the younger guards were more likely to be decent to the prisoners.

Many prisoners expressed the belief that the guards were afraid to break up prisoner fights and also routinely and purposely ignored homosexual assaults. A significant number of the prisoners saw the guards as fundamentally "lazy"—never there when they were needed, frequently off their posts, and unwilling to do their jobs. Few prisoners in the maximum security cellblocks reported seeing higher staff officials at the Jail with any frequency.

Unwarranted Force

Because of the closed nature of the institution, it is difficult to assess the frequency of brutality of the D. C. Jail. Whether or not it is an everyday occurrence, a number of prisoners said they had witnessed beatings and excessive use of force by the guards on other inmates, and several said they had been beaten themselves. Some examples offered by the prisoners to the interviewers included these:

o In November, 1969, a number of inmates demanded to see the Superintendent, and when their demand was turned down, they refused to return to their cells. The guards retaliated with physical force, hoses and chemical mace. Some inmates were maced while their hands were cuffed behind their backs. One man was thrown backwards down a flight of steps while handcuffed and, others said, both his wrists were broken. Some inmates had their hands cuffed behind their backs for three days.

o An inmate said he witnessed the beating of another prisoner whose hands were handcuffed behind him. The victim had been shouting that he wanted to get into the hospital.

o A prisoner reported that a feeble-minded inmate had playfully slapped a guard's shoulder. He was beaten. Another inmate repeated this story independently.

o A prisoner said he had been late in returning to his cell; fifteen minutes later, four guards came, and beat him with blackjacks.

o A man reported an incident in which another inmate was accused by a guard of stealing food. The inmate denied this. A scuffle broke out, and it ended with the inmate's being handcuffed to the bars of his cell, standing on his toes, for one and a half days.

o Another inmate reported seeing several instances of guards' beating recalcitrant prisoners after first handcuffing

them. In one of these incidents, he said, the prisoner had refused to go to his cell because he was sick and he demanded medical attention.

o A prisoner related an incident in which two drug addicts set themselves on fire. The guards turned a fire hose on them, he said, then beat them with blackjacks on their burns.

Punishment

The Jail's policies on prisoners who break the rules are spelled out in an internal memorandum titled "Handling of Non-conforming and/or Intractable Inmates." These policies are not available to the prisoners or to the general public. The single public statement of the Jail's policies on discipline is the one we have already noted from "District of Columbia Jail": "As inmates improve, privileges and opportunity for religious, educational, recreational and social activities increase. On the other hand, when inmates deteriorate in attitude and behavior, they are subject to reverse action."

"Reverse action" at the D. C. Jail comes in two degrees. The first, which consists of being locked semi-permanently inside one's own cell, is called "deadlock." The second, which means being locked inside a smaller, more horrible cell, is called "the hole."

These two terms are not officially recognized among Corrections Department personnel. The words were memoed out of existence on May 17, 1971, in Department Order 5300.6, the one about handling Non-conforming and/or Intractable Inmates. In that order, "Control Cell" was chosen as the correct name for the place the inmates refer to as "the hole." As for "deadlock," it became an "adjustment unit."

The control cells, said the statement, would be used in emergencies—no more than 48 hours per prisoner. "Meals will be the same as those served in the general population and served with the same frequency"; there will be a full issue of bedding; regular inspections will insure the inmates' safety, health and welfare; "The area will be cleaned daily"; "Inmates will be allowed reading material related to their academic programs"; and "The inmates will be allowed to maintain their personal hygiene in keeping with good health standards."

The policies professed in that memorandum bear practically no relationship to the reality of day-to-day practice in the D. C. Jail.

"Deadlock," by whatever name the Department of Corrections chooses to call it, is not being used as a "treatment mode," unless of course the treatment consists of almost total neglect. When an inmate is placed on deadlock, he is confined to his cell. He leaves it only to take showers; he may not exercise and his meals are delivered to his cell. The ACLU investigation determined that there was supposed to be a periodic review of an inmate's deadlock status, but it was unclear just what that review consisted of.

Of the 90 prisoners questioned, 22 said they had been placed on deadlock at one time or another. One man received the punishment for one week for refusing to make his bed; he said he had no hearing. Others said they had been on deadlock for varying lengths of time—"three or four months"; "most of four years"; one and a half or two months (the inmate wasn't sure) "for singing and yelling"; one week with no explanation and no hearing; six months, after having been accused of showing disrespect toward a guard; more than a year without a hearing; five months without a hearing; "off and on for eleven months"; and seven months, with a hearing every month.

"The Hole"

"The Hole" is a small cellblock of its own, separate from the others. Officials say there are seven cells in the "control" area, but on one occasion a corrections staff member acknowledged that there are more elsewhere in the Jail. For example, the former death row of the Jail, known as the "penthouse," also has been used as a "hole."

Thirty-two of the 90 prisoners interviewed said they had been consigned to "the hole" during their stay at the Jail, and their descriptions of it, given in separate interviews, were remarkably consistent. They coincided with what the ACLU investigator found in a visit to the Jail in November, 1971.

The cells are approximately six feet square. More than one prisoner is kept in a cell at a time. Prisoners said that as many as four, five and six men have been crowded into one of the cells.

There are no furnishings in "the hole." In some cells, there is a raised toilet; in at least one of them the toilet is a hole in the floor. Excrement floats in the pipe a few inches from the level of the cell. The toilets may be flushed only from the outside. The prisoners say guards flush the toilets only infrequently. In the case of the cell with the floor-level toilet, when a guard does flush it, water spurts out on the floor of the cell and onto the two vomit-stained mattresses.

The two men confined to that particular cell, along with all the other men in "the hole" on that particular day, said they had been issued mattresses only a day or so before. They suspected that the bedding came because recent court action had been brought against the Jail by the Public De-

fender Service and because visitors were expected. In another "control" section, the men said they had been kept naked until the court action was initiated.

It is a well-known fact of prison life that conditions tend to improve rapidly when prison officials undergo, or suspect they are about to undergo, scrutiny by the outside world. Inmates told the ACLU investigator, who walked through most sections of the Jail on November 10, that they knew he was coming because "funny things have been happening all day"—an inmate complaining of serious illness who had been ignored for several days suddenly got medical attention; food for prisoners in "the hole" mysteriously improved. Later that same day, a U. S. District Judge signed an order directing sweeping changes at the Jail: to remove prisoners from the "penthouse," to stop depriving them of food, bedding or clothing or subjecting them to extreme temperatures as punishments.

It is important to note, however, that the issuance of proclamations is no guarantee that any lasting reforms will be achieved. The reforms ordered by the District Court on November 10 were essentially the same as the new rules laid down on May 17 by the Director of Corrections, and those rules were ignored.

One of the two inmates in that dark cell described above called to the ACLU investigator and recited his list of grievances. They were common to all the men in the cells: Thrown into "the hole" without being informed of the charges against him or given a hearing; not given adequate food or water; not allowed to bathe or clean the cell. The man was just a voice in the darkness of the cell, but he was a strong voice.

"How do you keep sane?" the visitor asked him.

"By communicating among ourselves," the man replied. "Communicating about black history and black religion and the system that put us here. That and killing cockroaches."

Inmates in "the hole" receive no mail. The rules about their being allowed certain reading material is meaningless. There is a very dim light in the hole, and that is turned on at the discretion of the guards. In the cell described above, the light was not working at all.

Inmates are supposed to leave "the hole" once a day to wash their faces, once a week or less to shower. Until recently, when Superintendent McGruder issued new orders, they were fed only Metrecal, a diet liquid, and water.

As to the other policies enumerated in Department Order 5300.6 concerning cleanliness, personal hygiene, inspections to insure safety, health and welfare, and limiting the stay to 48 hours, they are violated with monotonous regularity:

- o A pretrial detainee was sent to "the hole" for more than a month. During that time he was not allowed to change his clothes. He had no soap and water. His food consisted of one pitcher of water a day and, twice a day, a vegetable and a piece of bread. On one occasion, three days passed without any food at all. This inmate afterwards wrote his lawyer about conditions in "the hole"; he said the information was deleted from his letters.

- o Another inmate who had not been convicted of anything said he was discussing black religion with his fellow prisoners when a guard told him to shut up. He kept talking. A number of guards came to his cell, sprayed Mace on him, beat him with blackjacks and left him unconscious all night. When he woke up he was in "the hole" and handcuffed, and he stayed there for fifteen days.

- o A convicted prisoner said he had been in "the hole" several times, some of those times for his Black Muslim activities. In one case, he said, there were eight men in a single cell at the same time.

- o An inmate awaiting sentence was accused of assaulting a guard. He was placed in the hole for fourteen days, during which time he was allowed to take one shower. This man, along with the others, commented that "the hole" was hot in the summertime, cold in the winter, and flooded when it rained.

- o Prisoners confined to the cells in "the hole" showed the ACLU investigator a variety of cuts, bruises, welts, and wrist burns that they said were caused by guards.

Due Process

Men sent to "the hole" are supposed to receive a hearing before or shortly after going there. Most, but not all, inmates who had been to "the hole" reported that they were afforded hearings, but that the hearings were just a formality. Guards and prison officials constitute the hearing board; the prisoner is not allowed to have any counsel. On the infrequent occasions when the prisoner is given time to tell his side of the story, say the men, it is obvious that the hearing board does not check it out.

In a landmark decision on prison reform, Judge Robert H. Merhige, Jr., has set forth the minimum standards for due process in cases where solitary confinement or maximum security confinement or other serious punishment is a possibility. He ordered:

- o a hearing with an impartial tribunal, with members free of prior involvement with the incident under examination.

- o notice of the hearing to the inmate with a statement of the charges, and a limitation on considering anything but the written charges at the hearing.

- o The right of the prisoner to call his own witnesses and to cross-examine adverse witnesses.

- o The right of the prisoner to be represented by a lay

LETTERS

Trouble at FCC

I HAVE just read your most interesting article on Federal City College. I am a junior at FCC, and have been a part-time student for the past two years.

The professors I have encountered in the classroom have been, with one exception, obviously very competent in their fields, able to teach effectively, and have an eagerness to help their students learn and succeed. (The one exception appeared to be a case where a man had been asked at the last minute to teach something other than he normally taught.) At the beginning of each semester, it seems to be the general rule that the professors give the students the telephone number and room number of their offices, and let them know their office hours. Not a few also give students their home phones. They say, and from my experience they mean it, that if a student needs help with something related to the class, or has a special problem regarding attendance, that the students are expected to get in touch with the professor to get the needed assistance. One professor, who was asked for help on the same problem by several students, scheduled a special class one Sunday to give the required help.

As you are no doubt aware, not a few of our students have been inadequately taught as to basic subjects and study methods. Some, also, have learned that the best way to get through school is to "con" the prof, work the system, or cheat on assignments. In addition to regular teaching, the profs have to deal with this small group of students, especially at the freshman level, and teach them the value of study and the techniques of learning. They do it, and it is quite an education in human relations to watch them.

Most of the students — all, I would say, but a handful — are serious and hard working. A large proportion work and/or have families, and work school in around their other responsibilities.

The profs I have had have been of a variety of outlooks on things. No one of them, however, has made any attempt to shove any of his opinions down students' throats. Possibly this is due to the fact that both faculty and students are a pretty mature bunch of people. Possibly, also, the fact that students and faculty alike come from such a variety of backgrounds (black and white, foreign and U.S., and all shades of the intellectual and political rainbow) has had something to do with it. One notable factor is that there is not a "class-consciousness barrier" between faculty and students. The feeling seems to be that the one major difference between faculty and students is that one is teaching the class, and the other is learning. Otherwise, there is a feeling of equality and mutual respect.

Judging from what I have experienced at FCC, I would be inclined to agree that the administration may be at least partially a mess. Registration is always incredibly bad — standing

adviser in less serious cases and by an attorney where the proceedings might result in serious punishment.

None of the above safeguards is observed at the D. C. Jail, and thus the illusion of due process through a hearing has no substance. Charles Rodgers, speaking to the lawyers and law students during their tour of the Jail when he was its Superintendent, commented on what happened to prisoners accused of violating the rules. About one-third of them, he said, were given a reprimand. About one-third were deprived of privileges (presumably this meant they were placed in "deadlock"). And the remaining one-third were sent to "the hole." Apparently no prisoner is ever found innocent of anything at the District of Columbia Jail.

in a non-moving line for three hours is the rule rather than the exception. Intriguingly enough, it is always bad in a new and different way.

So far as the records are concerned, the major problem clearly is that the records system was not set up properly in the first place, and therefore cannot be patched. Trying to patch it up is like taking a bunch of ramshackle sheds, tacking them together, putting a roof on top, and expecting it to serve adequately as an apartment building. And a records system shouldn't be overhauled without the supervision of someone who has worked with it and knows what it is required to do. I still don't have my grades from last quarter, and this quarter is half over, but in all fairness, the administration has been making an effort to get our academic records straightened out. Like many other students, I keep my own grade records at home to make sure that at graduation time there is at least one complete set of records somewhere saying that I am ready to graduate.

From my point of view, some of the best assets of FCC are these: people in D. C. who really want to learn have an opportunity to do so — at a price we can pay; the atmosphere is intellectually open and honest; there seems to be no racial bias, believe it or not (and I'm in a position to say it since I am one of their non-black students); creativity and development of a student's capabilities in his field of interest are actively encouraged; the profs are fair and care about the students; the students are for the most part steady and responsible, and work pretty hard.

It would be nice to have our own campus. Having buildings all over the city creates scheduling problems. We could use parking space so the students who have cars don't have to add the price of tickets to their education budget. It would be nice for the school to be able to get the funding it needs on time (no organization can work very effectively if it is thrown into financial crisis at regular intervals — staff do need to be paid, the school should be able to keep a credit rating, etc.). It would be a relief to have peace and cooperation between the administration and the faculty, because we have an incredibly good faculty and we'd be more likely to keep them if they were happier with the administration and vice versa.

When all is said and done, however, what's going on in the classroom would do credit to any school in the country. I compare notes with students in other major colleges in the city, and I would prefer to go to FCC than to any other even if I could pay the high tuitions asked by other schools. It's a challenging, no-nonsense school that demands hard work in an atmosphere where it's a pleasure to do it.

By the way, thanks for your interest in DC — in saving Chinatown, in helping FCC, in killing the creeping disease of freeways and choked transportation, in saving the public transit system, in working for Statehood.

— M. W. GARCIA



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